

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 DECEMBER 1984

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft carried out another air strike in the Gulf on 18 December, scoring accurate and effective hits on a large maritime target south of Khark Island, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. A similar target was also hit by the Iraqis in the same area the previous day, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Meanwhile, an attack on a tanker by "unknown" aircraft in the southern part of the Gulf was reported by Tehran radio, citing an AP dispatch based on local shipping sources which said there were no casualties.

Earlier, the Iraqi Defense Ministry's *AL-QADISIYAH* declared that Iraq will use new, sophisticated weapons to curb any Iranian aggression, INA disclosed.

Israel

Coalition Crisis — The Likud ministers will consult on 19 December to decide whether to leave the government because of the crisis, which the Alignment has made "no effort" to solve, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced in remarks broadcast by IDF radio early on 18 December. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio confirmed that SHAS has resigned from the government, noting that Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Peretz' resignation became effective on 18 December as consultations continued among ministers. However, in remarks broadcast by the radio, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he does not regard Peretz' resignation as the end of the matter, adding that a solution to the conflict between SHAS and the National Religious Party over the distribution of portfolios is still possible.

Terrorist Attack — A hand grenade was thrown at a bus in Tel Aviv, injuring three people, Jerusalem radio reported on 17 December.

Trial of Hijackers

The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner will be put on trial by the Iranian authorities and will not be extradited to any other country, the Tehran public prosecutor announced at a press conference reported by IRNA.

USSR Delegation in Kuwait

Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Avgust Voss arrived in Kuwait to consolidate bilateral

parliamentary relations and hold talks on peace, the arms race, and Middle East issues, according to his remarks cited by KUNA.

OPEC

Before leaving for the OPEC ministerial conference in Geneva, Iranian Oil minister Mohammad Gharazi declared that Iran has adhered strictly to its OPEC obligations, but it will not make sacrifices that would allow "Western conspirators" to undermine that organization, Tehran radio reported. The market has been weakened because some members have increased their production, Gharazi alleged. An Iranian Oil Ministry statement cited by IRNA added that Iran considers the present OPEC production ceiling to be too high. In Iraq, Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi, in a statement before his departure for Geneva cited by INA, also noted that the oil market has not stabilized because certain countries have not abided by their production quotas or have directly or indirectly reduced their prices.

North Africa

Libyan Contacts — On a stopover in Kuwait on his way to the ICO ministerial conference in Sanaa, Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki asserted to reporters that the reasons for the Muslim boycott of Egypt still remain and he recalled that at the Fes summit Libya strongly opposed readmitting Egypt to the ICO, KUNA reported. Another official, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, discussed bilateral relations and Mediterranean affairs with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi during a private visit to Rome, Rome radio revealed.

Honecker in Algeria — President Chadli Bendjedid and Chairman of the GDR Council of State Erich Honecker held political talks at the beginning of Honecker's 3-day visit, Algiers radio reported.

Refugees, Clashes in Sudan — The People's Assembly speaker stated that there are now 1.1 million Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan, SUNA reported. As for clashes in the south, seven crew members have been killed and six are missing after attacks on steamers, the agency disclosed. Recent reports by the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army have claimed successes in attacks on river boats and government troops in the south.

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PLO Officer in Tokyo Rejects Reagan Mideast Plan

LD172017 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Tokyo 17 Dec (KUNA) — PLO representative Bakr 'Abd al-Mun'im today reiterated the organization's rejection of American President Reagan's initiative for a settlement in the Middle East. At a news conference held in the PLO office he said that a high-ranking PLO delegation would visit Damascus this month. In this respect, he referred to the resolution of the PNC at his recent meeting in Amman on the preparedness of the PLO to remove misunderstanding with Syria "because the PLO and Syria were fighting for the same cause from the same trench."

In reply to a question on the second term in office of the American President, 'Abd al-Mun'im pointed out that "American analysis concerning Lebanon, the PLO and the situation in the Middle East as a whole was inexact." There was, he said, "a categorical rejection of the Reagan plan because it ignored the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, and completely ignored the non-negotiable rights of the Palestinian people."

'Abd al-Mun'im described Palestinian-Japanese relations at present as "at their best." He urged Japan to do all it could to put pressure on Washington so that it might realize "the just nature of the Palestinian cause."

PLO Delegation Meets with Polish Officials

LD180028 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] A delegation of the PLO Executive Committee continues its visit to countries of the socialist community. It met with the chief of the Foreign Relations Department of the Polish Communist Party and the head of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee. During this meeting the latest developments of the Palestine problem were discussed. The Polish side confirmed Poland's support for the just struggle of the Palestinian people. The delegation also extended an invitation from the Polish Government to the PLO Executive Committee to visit Poland [sentence as heard]. We point out that the delegation paid a similar visit to the GDR and met with a number of senior officials there.

PLO Official Denies Accusations About Funds

JN171236 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] In Damascus, Darwish al-Abyad, director of the Palestinian National Fund, has denied that he had been harassed or forced to sign checks to withdraw the fund's money from several banks.

PNC Speaker Views PLO Policies, Syrian Ties

PM141312 London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Dec 84 pp 16-17

[Interview with PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih by Yusuf al-Rimawi in Amman — date not given]

[Excerpts] *AL-DUSTUR*: You have presided over the PNC session and, everyone admits, conducted the meetings firmly and efficiently, but there is still some doubt regarding the quorum question. Could you clarify this matter once and for all?

Al-Sa'ih: First let me tell you that if I had suspected even for one moment that there was no quorum or that there was a violation of any kind, I would not have agreed to be speaker or even a member of the PNC. Thank God, when it comes to telling the truth I fear nobody. I do not tolerate any deception. I personally made sure that the quorum was genuine and was convinced that all the measures leading up to the PNC session were in accordance with the regulations, laws, and national interests of the Palestinian people.

AL-DUSTUR: Your attitude during the Amman meetings was characterized by moderation because you did not allow any attacks on the Palestinian opposition factions or on Syria. It was said at the time that you wanted to leave the door open to mediation and the restoration of national unity.

Al-Sa'ih: There can be no doubt that the PNC speaker's first duty is to work for Palestinian national unity and for the restoration of solidarity among the Palestinian organizations and between the PLO and Syria. I have decided to make every possible effort in that direction to arrive at a common denominator reviving Palestinian and Arab unity of ranks and voices, without which our struggle cannot continue and cannot fulfill our people's aspirations.

AL-DUSTUR: Does that mean that you will soon be going to Syria?

Al-Sa'ih: Of course I will go, if such a visit serves national and pan-Arab interests. We will work for a thaw and we will try to contain the differences. We shall see.

AL-DUSTUR: Are you hopeful that this mission will succeed?

Al-Sa'ih: We must admit that there are major difficulties, but the resolutions of the 17th PNC session, especially the resolutions listed in the political statement, were balanced and proved that the PNC and the PLO leadership still adhere to all the laws and principles agreed on at previous PNC sessions. None of the resolutions contained any attack on any Arab or Palestinian side other than those who took up arms against their brothers in the Al-Barid and Al-Baddawi camps. That is why I believe that, with good will, positive results can be achieved even if it takes a long time.

AL-DUSTUR: But Syria and the opposition factions accuse the 17th PNC session and the PLO leadership of capitulation. They maintain that the formula outlined by King Husayn in his speech to the PNC implied that.

Al-Sa'ih: The PNC did not take a final decision regarding the formula submitted by his majesty the king, but the PNC's political statement reaffirmed rejection of UN Security Council Resolution 242. The entire issue has been referred to the new Executive Committee and to the PNC Bureau, which has been instructed to study King Husayn's proposals thoroughly with a

view to arriving at a conclusion which could provide a sound basis for a Jordanian-Palestinian joint move guaranteeing the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, especially their right to set up their own independent state on our Palestinian territory in accordance with the National Charter and the resolutions of the PNC's previous sessions, especially the 16th session held in Algiers.

AL-DUSTUR: It has been said that the Amman session was the session of political options and that there was no place in that session for the armed struggle which in fact gave rise to Palestinian legitimacy and Palestinian identity.

Al-Sa'ih: There can be no question that armed struggle is the main pillar of the Palestinian struggle and that only through the gun can the struggle and the legitimacy be sustained. Any notion of dropping the Palestinian revolution's military role would mean the end of this revolution. That is why our latest PNC resolutions strongly emphasized the need to escalate armed struggle and develop its methods. We must admit, however, that, after the exodus from Beirut, the Palestinian revolution lost much of its ability to take military action. That is why we must seek mainly to escalate the struggle inside the occupied territory and to press for the opening of all Arab borders to the fighters. It is not right to ask just one Arab country to open its borders while other borders remain closed because, in the final analysis, the Palestinian cause is the cause not only of the Palestinians but of all the Arabs and its burdens should not be borne by one country to the exclusion of all others. Since the Arab borders are not open to us, we must act in accordance with our circumstances and available means and concentrate on military action in the occupied territory. All these points were included and strongly and clearly emphasized in the recent PNC resolutions.

Parallel to the escalation of armed struggle inside, we should move most resolutely to persuade the Arab states to support the Palestinian armed struggle. I believe that Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and the PLO should pool their efforts in support of military escalation against the Zionist enemy. The other Arab states should support the efforts of these states not with words and best wishes but with men, funds, arms, and everything that armed struggle requires.

Views Relations With Egypt

NC171644 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — PNC Chairman Shaykh 'Abd al-Halim al-Sa'ih has called on the Arab countries to reconsider their relations with Egypt. Noting the need for readmitting Egypt to the Arab fold, Al-Sa'ih said: We cannot ignore Egypt's position, its military, political, and cultural weight, and its historical Arab and Islamic role.

In an exclusive interview granted to the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Al-Sa'ih pointed out that the ICO decided to restore in full Egypt's membership to the organization and that all the Arab countries are members of the ICO. He also noted that most of the Arab countries have maintained their economic and social ties with Egypt despite the severing of relations.

The restoration of Egypt to the Arab fold, Al-Sa'ih said, will be among the subjects which he will ask the coming Arab summit to discuss and give a clear opinion on. The restoration of relations with Egypt, Al-Sa'ih said, is not contradictory to the previous Arab summit resolutions. The PNC chairman added that King Husayn himself said that there are no Arab summit resolutions calling for severing relations with Egypt — there is only a recommendation by the Arab foreign ministers.

Commenting on the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian movement to restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people — including their right to self-determination — Al-Sa'ih said the Palestinian issue has almost reached a stage where it is assigned to oblivion and that any Jordanian-Palestinian or Palestinian-Jordanian-Egyptian movement that will keep the issue alive in the international arena will benefit both the Palestinian and Arab cause.

Asked about the existing initiatives, the PNC chairman said none of the existing European or non-European initiatives is acceptable to the Palestinian people because they have their charter and principles and would not give them up nor will they give up any of their rights.

Speaking about the possibility of a confederation with Jordan, Al-Sa'ih said: Confederation results from the merger of two independent bodies. If the Palestinian entity and the Palestinian state were established on Palestinian land, then there could be confederation with Jordan or any other Arab country because we are advocates of unity and we want to see complete Arab unity. The confederation with Jordan could serve as a nucleus for such an overall unity.

Speaking about the aims of the coming Arab summit, Al-Sa'ih said he wants this summit to iron out the differences among the Arab regimes to fend off the ominous perils lurking for all the Arabs and all their regimes without exception. If the coming Arab summit achieves this end the road to solving the Palestinian problem will be opened.

Asked whether he would visit Syria, as was recently published, Al-Sa'ih said: I was asked if I were ready to visit Syria and I said yes, as long as my going there would bring a thaw in Syrian-PLO relations. I am a soldier working for the goals of the Palestinian revolutions and for genuine Arab solidarity. When the atmosphere is right in Syria I will go there.

KUNA Cites PLO Official on UN Resolution 242

LD171133 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA) — A PLO official has said "The PLO strongly rejects U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, because it does not deal with Palestinians as a people."

In a press statement to Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA* published Monday director of PLO chairman's office in Jordan, Najib al-Ahmad said U.N. Resolution 242 has nothing to do with the Palestinian cause.

Commenting on recent statements of Fatah Central Committee member Salim al-Za'nun, over the resolution, Al-Ahmad stressed that this resolution ignores the Palestinian people and does not deserve further study. Al-Za'nun stated lately that Resolution 242 has some positive elements that should be studied.

Resolution 242, passed in 1967, called for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories and referred to the Palestinian people as refugees only.

Commenting on recent press reports quoting Palestinian officials as saying that the PLO accepts an incomplete sovereign state Al-Ahmad stated "As a temporary solution, we call for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories since 1967 and the establishment of a Palestinian state on national soil prior to the creation of a confederate state with Jordan."

Regarding the formation of a Palestinian army, Al-Ahmad indicated that the PNC 16th session held in Algeria early 1983 had issued a resolution on the gathering of all Palestinian forces under a Palestinian national liberation army. He noted, however, such resolution was not implemented.

He told *AL-ANBA* that there are many terrorist attempts against PLO leaders, adding "As a Palestinian revolution, we are exposed to assassination by Zionists and their agents in the region."

Meanwhile, he pointed out that the dialogue between the Democratic Alliance and Fatah Central Committee was maintained. He expressed optimism that this dialogue will end up in complete success. It is possible, he noted, that the PNC will hold a session including all parties except the National Alliance which he described as non-Palestinian.

Al-Ahmad, commenting on relations with Syria said "We did not stop contacts with Syria and our hearts will always be open for a dialogue."

TAP: PLO Source on 'Legitimate' Right To Resist

LD151509 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis 15 Dec (TAP) — The PLO has placed responsibility for any retaliatory operations against Palestinian citizens inside and outside occupied land on the escalation of Palestinian resistance operations against the occupation.

An official Palestinian source in a statement yesterday said that the Palestinian fighters operating behind enemy lines are exercising a legitimate right by resisting the occupation through various means, and that this right is guaranteed for all people resisting occupation by all international norms and laws. The source added that the Palestinian people will continue exercising this legitimate right despite all Zionist repressive and unjust measures and threats.

The Palestinian source continued: "The escalation of resistance operations inside the occupied land comes in the course of the revolutionary response to the organized and studied terrorist policy exercised by the Zionist command and carried out by

Zionist gangs including Kahane, Sharon, and the KAKH organization and other terrorist groups directly linked with the Israeli Government and Army, especially following the Israeli Army's distribution of weapons to all inhabitants of the Jewish settlements."

Kuwait Paper Interviews PLO's Abu Dawud

GF180647 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Dec 84 pp 1, 19

[Muhammad al-'Abd al-Karim report]

[Text] In a lengthy *AL-QABAS* interview, Abu Dawud, PNC member and a controversial Fatah personality, said that those who addressed the 17th PNC session in Amman concentrated on capitulatory plans and the solutions they offer. He said: They ignored the armed struggle and did not refer to the requirements of its continuation. It is folly to bank on Ronald Reagan, other U.S. officials, or international socialism in seeking a peaceful solution. Those people are under an illusion, because the relationship between the United States and Israel cannot be tampered with. All Israelis are Zionists, and Israel has vultures, not doves.

Abu Dawud thought it unlikely that a peaceful solution for the Palestinian problem could be found. He called for the continuation of armed struggle as the sole option for liberation. He said the closure of the boundaries by Arab countries bordering the occupied territories to the resistance movement cannot cancel resistance. This move has merely caused the struggle to follow a different path. Abu Dawud paid tribute to the struggle of the Lebanese national resistance forces in southern Lebanon. He attributed the success of this resistance, in part, to the existence of Palestinian resistance there in the past.

Abu Dawud admitted to the shortcomings of the Palestinian resistance movement in the occupied territories and Gaza Strip and attributed this failure to not arming the Palestinians there. Abu Dawud denied that he had collaborated with any other Fatah leaders to replace Yasir 'Arafat as the PLO leader. He admitted that there were some differences on the ceasefire agreement in 1978, but that they were only over the struggle. Abu Dawud has escaped several times from assassination attempts by Israeli intelligence. Abu Dawud stressed that the Israeli intelligence service Mossad is not as penetrating and effective as some Western media make it out to be. It is an ordinary and sometimes even subsidiary organ. Abu Dawud concluded by stressing the importance of cohesion among Palestinian factions and expiation with Syria in the interest of the Palestinian cause.

Al-Fahum Confers With Syrian Assembly Speaker

JN161254 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum [as heard] has affirmed his deep appreciation for Syria's firm, principled pan-Arab stand under President Hafiz al-Asad in supporting the Palestinian people and their continuing revolutionary struggle to achieve their right to self-determination and their right to establish their independent state on their national soil. Khalid al-Fahum made

this statement when People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi received him this morning. They reviewed the current situation in the Arab arena in general and in the Palestinian arena in particular in light of the convocation of the 'Arafatist, divisionist conference in Amman.

Al-Fahum noted the capitulationist solutions aimed at liquidating the Palestinian issue through establishing a fake council and Executive Committee at the expense of the Palestinian people's rights and sacrifices. He affirmed that this council and committee do not represent this people's wishes of liberation, return, and resisting the hegemony of imperialism, and their allies in the Arab region. Al-Fahum praised Syria's efforts at all levels in confronting the hostile designs, moves, and pressures against the Arab nation which is striving to achieve its objectives of construction, liberation, and progress.

Al-Zu'bi affirmed Syria's militant liberation stand under President Hafiz al-Asad alongside the Palestinian issue, the crux of the present Arab struggle. He said that Syria will continue its firm revolutionary course until the Palestinian people regain their complete rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state on their national soil. Al-Zu'bi denounced the liquidatory, defeatist moves of those who oppose our people's will toward liberation and unity. He affirmed that nations which struggle for their independence, freedom, and progress will ultimately triumph and destroy all the causes that obstruct their will because victory always belongs to nations and not to the enemies of nations, humanity, and history.

Aden: PFLP Holds 17th Anniversary Celebration

GF151958 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] A speech rally was held in the hall of the 'Abdallah Ba Dhib Institute for Scientific Socialism today on the PFLP's 17th anniversary. The rally was attended by Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front; Abu 'Ali Mustafa, assistant PFLP secretary general; a number of members of the YSP Central Committee; representatives of national liberation movements; and a number of ambassadors in the PDRY.

During the rally, Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir delivered a speech on behalf of the party and state. He reiterated the PDRY's firm support for the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO and for their continuous struggle for their just and legitimate rights to sovereignty and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil. He also affirmed the PDRY's stance toward the importance of the unity of the Palestinian national action and the unity of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

During the rally, Brothers Tal'at Ya'qub and Abu 'Ali Mustafa made speeches. A speech also was delivered on behalf of the Arab national liberation movements.

Resistance Operations in Southern Lebanon

Near Al-Ghaziyyah, Al-Zahrani, Jibshit

JN141754 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1619 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese national resistance men continue to escalate their operations against the personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and the militias of the so-called army of southern Lebanon in occupied southern Lebanon, inflicting more losses on them.

This morning the resistance men set off highly explosive remote-controlled charges just as a Zionist military patrol was passing near Al-Ghaziyyah, south of Sidon. The explosion destroyed a Zionist military truck and killed or wounded its occupants. Also this morning, another group of resistance men attacked a Zionist military patrol while it was passing near Al-Zahrani in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack, which was carried out with automatic weapons and rockets, destroyed a half-tracked vehicle and damaged another. The vehicle occupants were killed or wounded. Using automatic weapons and rockets, the resistance men attacked a military psotion of the so-called army of southern Lebanon's militias near the village of Jibshit in southern Lebanon. Several of agent personnel were killed or wounded in this attack.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the three operations but, as usual, he did not disclose his losses. He said that his forces and elements from the agent militias launched large-scale search and combing operations and detained several citizens under the pretext that were associated with the resistance men, who returned safely to their bases.

Near Al-Nabatiyyah, Al-Qulaylah

JN152108 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1620 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] The Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men have used machine guns and hand grenades to attack a Zionist military patrol consisting of two jeeps in Tyre in occupied southern Lebanon. The attack destroyed the two vehicles, killing or injuring all of the occupants. The resistance men also detonated highly explosive charges while a Zionist military patrol was moving on a road north of the city of Al-Nabatiyyah. The explosion destroyed a military vehicle, and killed or wounded a large number of the Zionist invasion forces' personnel. Another group of resistance men carried out a daring operation against a military patrol belonging to Lahd's agent forces when the group surprised the patrol with machine guns and rockets while it was traveling in the town of Al-Qulaylah, near Tyre. The attack killed or wounded a large number of the agent personnel.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted these heroic operations, but as usual, declined to mention losses. He said that the Israeli forces cordoned off the operations areas, launched large-scale search campaigns, and arrested a number of citizens on the pretext of interrogating them.

Near Al-Nabatiyah; Agent Executed

*JN171711 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT
17 Dec 84*

[Text] The Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance men set off highly explosive, remote-controlled charges under a Zionist military patrol on a road 5 miles from Al-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. A large number of Zionist soldiers were either killed or wounded. A Zionist military spokesman admitted that only one soldier was killed. He said that his forces immediately cordoned off the area and carried out an extensive search for the resistance men, who returned safely to base.

On the other hand, a Zionist spokesman admitted that 604 Zionists have been killed in Lebanon since the 1982 Israeli invasion.

The Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance men executed agent Haydar al-Dayyikh yesterday on the Jwayya-Tyre road. The agent had headed a pro-Zionist military organization during the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon.

IRNA on Background to 19 Dec OPEC Meeting*LD151929 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] Tehran, Dec 15, IRNA — OPEC ministers are to meet in Geneva on Wednesday December 19th in order to review the status of the oil market and adopt new decisions for coping with the international oil market. The following is a commentary by IRNA's analyst on the issue:

The principal issue before the OPEC ministers will be the differential in price of light and heavy crude, as well as the impact of a drop in production ceiling of 1.5 million bpd [barrels per day] upon the international oil market.

In its deliberative assembly in October, and in order to stabilize the market, OPEC reduced its production ceiling from 17.5 million bpd to 16 million bpd. Since last year, a number of OPEC members argued in favor of narrowing the price margin between light and heavy crude by increasing the price of heavy oil. Refineries in consumer countries tended to take in more heavy crude, consequently increasing market demands for it, and suggesting the cost-effectiveness of processing heavy crude; such arguments were presented even more fervently than before.

As far back as the last meeting of the OPEC ministers, some OPEC member states adopted different courses of action since they differed with the rest on the topic of suggested sale percentages of the various classifications of crude oil, while other inconsistencies also adversely affected OPEC's decisions. At one point in time, oil prices in free markets dropped in value by as much as three dollars below the official price. But all in all, with its decision to put a ceiling on combined production, OPEC somewhat helped oil to recover at the international level. The issue of the marginal difference in price of the various types of crude oil yet continues to pose a principal problem for OPEC.

In a bid to prepare themselves for unexpected OPEC decisions, certain consumer countries — among them Japan — have suspended many of their mid-term oil purchase agreements, much as the debate has affected many oil transactions, but in fact the efforts of the OPEC countries should be directed towards protecting the prime rate of 29 dollars. The increase in demand for heavy crude is directed principally at Saudi Arabia's crude. The increase in Saudi Arabia's crude to as much as one dollar pb [per barrel] will serve to stabilize the 29-dollar prime rate for Saudi Arabia, with similar effects to other OPEC members. At the time being, Saudi Arabia sells her heavy crude at rates higher than its official price, though to other OPEC members it is vice versa.

Some OPEC countries have deliberately involved international cartels in the production and export of oil, thereby letting them maneuver oil policies in those countries with consequences to other OPEC member states. As long as powerful international companies are in charge of the production and exporting oil in some OPEC countries, such companies will continue to do as they wish in order to protect their own interests.

Aramco, for example, sells Saudi Arabia's crude to its own partners — Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and others — at 40 percent light oil, 25 percent medium oil, and 35 percent heavy oil, averaging 27.55 dollars per barrel, and to its other clients at 60 percent light oil, 20 percent medium oil, and 20 percent heavy oil, averaging 28.8 dollars per barrel, thereby as though throwing a first stumbling to the course of a unified oil process. [sentence as received]

With the advent of [the] cold season, the market demand for oil has consistently increased with a comparable increase in price of the various types of crude oil, as compared with prices before the deliberative OPEC meet in Geneva in October.

Currently, however, the oil market is struck with an induced slump, the situation created in the wake of drawing from oil reserves from 2.5 to 3.5 million bpd by major oil companies following the imposition of a new production ceiling.

Oil prices at the time being are as they were 10 days ago, still lower than their established prices. To reverse the situation, some OPEC member countries suggest a further cut in combined production of up to 1.5 million bpd. They argue that OPEC member countries have not fully observed OPEC's decision of October, and that they have continued to produce as much as they have decided, selling them at prices convenient to themselves. Such strategies inevitably serve to weaken the international status of OPEC, while turning out to the benefit of industrialized nations which insist on reduced rates.

Norway was said last week to have decided to sell her oil at non-official rates, though the rumor was unofficially denied by Norway's State Oil. But even though it may proceed to do so given her negligible production, it is very much unlikely that it will leave any effect upon the international status of oil.

Other reports, however, indicate that technical problems in Norway's oil platforms threaten to reduce the country's oil production by some 50 percent. Currently England and Norway produce about 3.2 million bpd and 700,000 bpd respectively from the North Sea. The North Sea oil sells at 1.40 dollar less than its reduced rate in the spot markets.

OPEC members know full well that as spring draws on in, the northern hemisphere demand for oil will somewhat drop, that is one reason why they will have to comply with their own decisions. Because certain OPEC members follow policies different from the decisions of OPEC, such as selling their oil at spot sales, and/or selling at barter agreements, at the time being only as little as 40 percent of the total oil production of OPEC countries are sold at established prices. The situation makes it all the more necessary for OPEC members to honor a group decision rather than try to further individual preferences.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC, Kuwait Work on Anti-Hijacking Plans

*GF171859 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 16 Dec 84
pp 1, 18*

[Sayyid 'Uthman report]

[Excerpts] The concerned parties have finished preparation of a new draft plan to safeguard international aviation and to ensure the safety of passengers and airline crews against aircraft hijackings.

Sources told *AL-SIYASAH* that this plan is within the general framework of the international agreements to protect aircraft and prevent illegitimate acts against aviation safety, which are: the Tokyo agreement of 1963, the Hague agreement of 1970, and the Montreal agreement of 1971, of which Kuwait is a member.

The new draft plan provides for the execution of hijackers and punishment of the perpetrators for any violation of aviation security or even damage inflicted on airport buildings or equipment. The plan also secures the protection of those who storm aircrafts to secure the hostages.

The sources said that the new draft plan expands the courts' responsibility in punishing those who threaten aviation safety in order to prevent the repetition of those crimes, which are carried out violently and which threaten the lives of passengers, including women and children.

It is expected that this plan will be proposed to the National Assembly in its current session for ratification and application as soon as possible. It will be the first of its kind to be adopted by an Arab state.

Gulf political circles told *AL-SIYASAH* that the GCC foreign ministers will propose definite ideas — which will be in the form of a joint working paper on the strengthening of Islamic solidarity in combating air piracy and terrorist activity within the framework of a new formula to unite Islamic security and to coordinate among its countries — to the 15th conference of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers, which will begin its preparatory meetings in Sanaa tomorrow, Monday, and which will be attended by 42 foreign ministers.

Gulf circles said that the Gulf countries' ideas on these issues are part of the agenda that has been agreed upon and is not an extraordinary request. This gives the impression that the Islamic countries' foreign ministers will discuss and reach definite results to confront air piracy operations and the increase of terrorism in all Islamic countries, in light of the sympathy and support which were expressed by many Islamic countries against those operations following the hijacking of the Kuwaiti aircraft to Tehran airport.

BAHRAIN

Prime Minister Receives Note From Iran's Musavi

GF171301 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Manama, 17 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi dealing with bilateral relations and conveying congratulations on Bahrain's national day. The message was delivered by 'Abbas Shakuri, Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain, during his meeting in Manama today with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

Foreign Minister Departs for Sanaa ICO Meeting

GF181106 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 18 Dec (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah today left for Sanaa to lead his country's delegation to the 15th conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries. The conference will convene there today.

KUWAIT

Reportage on Visit of USSR Supreme Soviet Delegation**Voss Interview Before Visit**

LD172117 Kuwait KUNA in English 1810 GMT 17 Dec 84

[by Abdul Wahab al-Khashan]

[Text] Moscow, Dec 17 (KUNA) — A delegation of the Supreme Soviet headed by the Chairman of the USSR Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Voss left here Monday for Kuwait for an official visit at the invitation of Speaker of Kuwait National Assembly Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani.

On departure, Voss told KUNA that the aim of his visit is to enhance and deepen relations between the parliaments in both countries and recalled that Al-'Adsani visited the Soviet Union last summer on the head of Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation. Voss predicted that his visit to Kuwait would be of positive results that would help strengthen bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

He noted that Kuwait is pursuing an antiimperialist foreign policy and is helping to consolidate international peace, disarmament and detente. "The stands of Kuwait and Moscow are identical toward most international issues," he pointed out. He expressed satisfaction that the Soviet stand on the Middle East crisis "is fully understood by the Government of Kuwait," adding that the viewpoints of the two countries toward that problem "are identical."

On the Iraq-Iran war, the Soviet official said that "the Soviet parliamentarians are doing their best to help settle that bloody and fruitless war between the two neighboring Muslim coun-

tries." This war, Voss said, is basically serving the interests of the countries which want to escalate tension in international relations, destabilize the region, with the aim of forcing its countries to bow for their influence and to control the resources of the area as they did in the past. He added the Soviet Union is against that war which is exhausting the potentials of both Iraq and Iran and weaken their struggle against Israel, the U.S.-backed enemy of the Arab and Muslim nations.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation is comprising Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation Nikolay Maslennikov; Deputy Chairman of Energy Committee at the Soviet Nationalities Kurban Abasov; member of the Public Health and Social Security Commission of the Supreme Soviet Leonid Borodin, as well as other officials.

The visit by a delegation of the Supreme Soviet to Kuwait is the second in 10 years.

Voss Comment on Arrival

LD172124 Kuwait KUNA in English 1918 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA) — The head of the Supreme Soviet delegation Avgust Voss who arrived here Monday on a visit to Kuwait said his visit is mainly aimed at consolidating bilateral relations in different sectors, particularly the parliamentary field.

Voss said his talks with Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adsani will concentrate on international developments and enhancing cooperation between the two parliaments particularly in the field of unifying efforts toward supporting world peace, and restricting current arms race. He added Arab issues, and a settlement to the Middle East crisis, the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf will also be discussed.

The delegation will meet Tuesday morning with his highness the amir, His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and will attend part of a National Assembly meeting.

Received by Amir

LD181048 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1016 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, 18 Dec (KUNA) — The Supreme Soviet delegation led by Chairman of the USSR Soviet of Nationalities Avgust Eduardovich Voss met here today with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The meeting was attended by Muhammad Yusuf al-'Adasani, speaker of the Kuwaiti National assembly; Jasim Muhammad al-Khurafi, chairman of the assembly's Finance and Economy Committee; and Pogos Akopov, Soviet ambassador to Kuwait.

The Soviet delegation arrived here last night on an official visit lasting for several days at the invitation of the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

Libyan Foreign Minister Stops Enroute to ICO Session *LD172141 Kuwait KUNA in English 1853 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA) — Libyan Foreign Affairs Minister Dr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki said here Monday that his country has no problem with Egypt as a neighbor and stressed that the problem lies with the Camp David accords.

After a brief stopover in Kuwait, Al-Turayki left here today for Sanaa on board the same plane with Deputy Premier Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad to attend the ministerial conference for the ICO. The Libyan minister told reporters that he believes that the reasons which led the Muslims and the Arabs to boycott Egypt (Camp David accords) still remain and recalled that Libya has strongly opposed the return of Egypt to the ICO in the Islamic summit of Fez.

Egypt is attending the Sanaa ICO conference Tuesday for the first time since its ICO membership was suspended in 1979 after Egypt made peace with Israel.

On the Iran-Iraq war, Al-Turayki said this conflict is on the agenda of the Islamic foreign ministers meetings and stressed that efforts exerted to contain that war have managed to prevent changing it into a war between the Arab and the Persian nations, who are bound by Islamic and neighborhood relations.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM: Iran Will Not Try 'Real' Hijackers *GF171541 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 16 Dec 84 p 1*

[Text] Diplomatic sources say that the Iranian Government is expected to put four members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization on trial for hijacking the Kuwaiti aircraft and punish them instead of the real hijackers of the plane. The sources said that Iran refuses to turn over the hijackers to Kuwait because Iran sympathizes with the operation, despite its claims that it fights international terrorism.

The sources pointed out that extensive contacts were made in the Gulf during the past 2 days to form plans to confront such incidents. It is expected that the issue of the plane hijacking will be discussed by the Kuwait Cabinet today.

AL-QABAS:: Hijacking Part of 'Strategic Plan' *GF171356 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Dec 84 pp 1, 19*

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources have said that the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airbus to Iran was part of an Iranian strategic plan aimed at cutting off the Gulf countries' military and economic aid to Iraq. The sources added that the hijacking incident is probably the first phase of this plan, which has also been formed to strike against embassy buildings of Arab countries sympathetic to Iraq, including Jordan. *AL-QABAS* has already reported that U.S. officials do not rule out such strikes, even against U.S. concerns, aiming to undermine President Reagan's position.

U.S. officials will supply intelligence information on possible terrorist strikes to friendly countries. However, the U.S. Administration cannot provide a full watch on foreign embassies, and has left this task to the governments concerned. Meanwhile, most television networks and major press agencies published the special *AL-QABAS* report on the U.S. commando team "Delta" that was sent to one of Iran's neighboring countries.

KUWAIT TIMES Sees Rigidity in U.S. Policies

LD171354 Kuwait KUNA in English 1029 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 17 (KUNA) — U.S. policy in the Middle East is based on influencing the Arab world without compromising itself or revising its stands on regional issues, according to the daily *KUWAIT TIMES* Monday. Although the U.S. has opposed all Arab resolutions at the United Nations, it still claims to be committed to the Middle East peace progress, the daily noted.

U.S. President Ronald Reagan is sticking to his peace plan for the region despite the fact that the Arab world has rejected his proposals and he has not been willing "to make readjustments to accommodate the Arab demands." Reagan continues to push his mistaken policy line and "does not want to accept any demand backed by a majority, be it at the United Nations or at an international peace conference on the Middle East," the paper explained.

Meanwhile, the Arab world continues to appreciate U.N. support in the form of resolutions passed supporting the Arab cause and exposing "the aggressive policies of Israel and its protectors and allies."

However, these UN decisions, such as those urging member nations to stop dealings with Israel, condemning the "Zionist entity for imposing its jurisdiction over Jerusalem and stressing the necessity of PLO participation in any just and comprehensive settlement," have little chance of being implemented in light of U.S. opposition, the paper concluded.

OMAN

Delegation Leaves for ICO Meeting in YAR

GF171620 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, today left Oman for Sanaa at the head of the Omani delegation attending the meetings of the ICO foreign ministers conference, which will begin in Sanaa on 18 December. The meetings will last 4 days.

SAUDI ARABIA

Finnish Trade Minister Sees Finance Minister

LD172309 Riyadh SPA in English 1253 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Riyadh, Dec 17, SPA — Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl received here today the visiting Finnish Trade and Industry Minister Seppo Lindblom and reviewed with him ways of enhancing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Later, Lindblom visited in Riyadh the headquarters of the Saudi Arabian National Center for Science and Technology (SANCST) and met with its chairman Dr Saleh al-Adkl. The visiting Finnish Trade and Industry Minister was briefed on the center's activities and objectives.

U.S., UK, France Vie To Sell Planes to Kingdom

GF171640 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 15 Dec 84 pp 1, 23

["Exclusive" report from Paris]

[Excerpt] Well-informed sources here have said that three major Western countries — the United States, France, and Great Britain — are secretly competing to sell Saudi Arabia the "deal of the century": advanced fighter planes. The sources disclosed to *AL-QABAS* the details of this secret competition to sign a multi-billion dollar deal with Saudi Arabia. The contest mainly involves three types of modern fighter planes — the British Tornado, the French Mirage-2000, and the advanced U.S. F-15.

At the early stage of the contest, the competition was between France and Britain. Contacts were held between Saudi Arabia and Britain, and Saudi Arabia and France. Senior French and British officials, including British Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine, visited Riyadh. In their contacts, the British stressed that the Tornado, which is manufactured jointly by Britain, Italy, and the FRG, is the best and strongest jet fighter in the world. They also said that they are ready to supply Saudi Arabia with large numbers of this plane without restrictions on their use.

At the same time, French officials offered the Mirage-2000, which is the most advanced French warplane and which is very effective and maneuverable. Informed French sources have told *AL-QABAS* that President Mitterrand pins great hopes on this deal with Saudi Arabia, particularly due to the difficulties being faced in the sale of French arms. Mitterrand is betting that he has more chances to win the deal because France's stand on the Gulf war and the Arab-Israeli conflict is more agreeable to the Arabs than that of Britain, and also because France in the past has signed important military deals with Saudi Arabia in which it supplied the Kingdom with a network of air defense and AMX-30 tanks and a variety of naval equipment.

The Saudis have studied the characteristics of the Tornado and the Mirage-2000 fighters and have found that the French fighter plane is more suitable to the Saudi Air Force than the British one. *AL-QABAS* has learned that the reason behind this is that

the Tornado is extremely complex and that many Western countries have refused to purchase it for this reason. Despite this, Saudi officials have not told France whether they intend to conclude the deal with them. Nor have they informed Britain of their final decision on the Tornado.

UAE

PRC Trade Officials Discuss Cooperation

GF171709 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 Dec 84 p 6

[Mahgub Musa dispatch from Abu Dhabi]

[Excerpt] Sun Fang, vice chairman of the PRC Council for the Promotion of International Trade, has called for the necessity of opening new horizons for developing economic and trade relations between the PRC and the UAE — in light of the decision adopted by the two countries on the establishment of diplomatic relations last November — through trade agreements between the two countries and the establishment of a joint committee for this purpose.

This statement came during a meeting held yesterday at the Abu Dhabi commerce and industrial chamber. The meeting was attended by the PRC economic delegation currently visiting the state and the board of directors of Abu Dhabi commerce and industrial chamber led by Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-'Utaybah, chairman of the board of directors. During the meeting the two delegations discussed means to activate and boost the economic relations between the two countries.

During the meeting the PRC delegation called on the investors in the state to establish joint projects between the two countries and develop the trade exchange in all fields for the benefit of the two parties. The delegation said that the PRC Government is following an open-door policy. It has a prepared list of projects and there are chances of investment by UAE businesses through joint capital in the industrial, agricultural, and tourism fields.

The head of the delegation said that it is currently studying possibilities of increasing PRC imports from the UAE, especially from the petroleum and petrochemical sector. He said: "The PRC Council for the Promotion of International Trade intends to establish a representative office in the UAE for bolstering industrial cooperation and transfer of experiences, and for studying and encouraging joint investment projects which can be established between the two parties." He referred to the laws concerning foreign investment in the PRC and the facilities and guarantees which it will provide. Later on the council will provide the chamber of commerce with these laws.

During the meeting, the board of directors of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce discussed the trade obstacles and difficulties facing businessmen while dealing with PRC companies and institutions. The two parties agreed on the possibility of resolving these problems and eliminating the obstacles.

The board of directors of the chamber affirmed the necessity for developing air and sea travel between the two countries and in

establishing a sea line between ports of the two countries to facilitate the flow of goods. The two parties agreed on the need for continuing mutual contacts in order to exchange views on joint economic cooperation whether through direct contact or through the Arab chambers of commerce.

AL-WAHDAH Discusses Relations With PRC

GF171030 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Dec (WAM) — The UAE newspaper *AL-WAHDAH* today touched editorially on the development of relations between the PRC and the GCC countries, particularly PRC-UAE relations. The paper said that this development paves the way for new horizons of cooperation in the political and economic fields with a superpower that currently occupies a strong position in the international arena after the Soviet Union and the United States. The paper pointed out that developing relations with the PRC achieves the common goals and supports the policy of nonalignment that is pursued by the UAE and its GCC sister countries.

The paper termed the decision to establish full diplomatic relations between the UAE and the PRC last November as being a positive step designed to bolster the UAE's foreign position and to strengthen its independence — particularly as the PRC is regarded one of the developing countries which plays an important role in the preservation of the strategic balance on the world political map with its huge human capabilities and immense economic resources.

Concluding, the paper called on Arab countries to pursue cooperation with the PRC — which is a permanent, strong, and sincere supporter of all Arab issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue and the Zionist presence in occupied Arab territories.

The paper went on to say that Arab-PRC cooperation is very old and today it holds special importance since it helps avert the policy of international dispute between the two superpowers.

First Gulf Naval Operations Room Inaugurated

GF171630 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Dec (WAKH) — Brigadier Hamad Hilal, deputy commander of the UAE naval forces, has announced that the UAE possesses a room for tactical operations at the naval command in Abu Dhabi. He said that this room is the first of its kind in the Gulf region, and that it is equipped with computers and other sophisticated equipment.

Chief of Staff Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi attended the inauguration of the room today. Hilal said that this room is a part of the Navy School and that it will be used for training NCO's, technicians, and Navy personnel about naval battles and maneuvers on the ground before application in the sea.

PDRY

Visiting USSR Delegation Received by Chairman
GF170539 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT
 17 Dec 84

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, today received the Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Comrade Bayen Ashimov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, member of the Kazakh SSR Supreme Presidium, and member of the CPSU Central Committee.

Comrade Ashimov has conveyed to the brother secretary general Konstantin Chernenko's greetings and his best wishes to the people, YSP, and the government of the PDRY for achieving more successes.

In a friendly atmosphere, they discussed the friendship and the means to bolster them according to the friendship and cooperation treaty signed between the two countries for the joint goals and the benefit of the two peoples. They also reviewed the current Arab and international issues, including a number of issues of mutual concern.

The brother secretary general hailed the support and aid already extended and future aid from the Soviet Union to our country, which emphasizes the depth of relations binding the two countries. He affirmed that his visit to the Soviet Union and his meetings with Comrade Konstantin Chernenko were important and contributed to strengthening the intimate comradesly and developing relations. He expressed our country's pride in these developing relations, which serve the goals and benefit the two friendly countries and their people, and our Arab national issues in confronting the imperialist-Zionist challenges in order to achieve their independent progress and social development.

For his part, the chairman of the Soviet parliamentary delegation expressed his pleasure over his visit to our country, his meeting with the brother secretary general, and his discussions with the PDRY side. He expressed admiration for what he has seen in the progress of building a new life, and the efforts exerted by the YSP in this field. He affirmed that the Soviet Union will continue efforts to strengthen the struggling relations between the two friendly parties and peoples. He said that his visit to a number of the governorates has enabled him and his comrades to get acquainted with the features of civilization and the aspects of life which demonstrate the working class's efforts for achieving more economic and social progress in our country.

The meeting was attended by Brother 'Ali Ahmad al-Salami, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and chairman of National Parliamentary Department.

YAR

Reportage on Meeting of ICO Foreign Ministers

Senior Officials Prepare Agenda
GF171024 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT
 16 Dec 84

[Excerpts] The committee of senior officials of delegations of 45 Islamic countries participating in the 15th Islamic foreign ministers' conference, which will open on Tuesday in Sanaa, held its second session tonight under the chairmanship of Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, in preparation for the conference. Discussions resumed on the proposals presented by a number of ICO members participating in the meetings. The first session began this morning. During their meetings the senior officials will discuss the agenda of the conference.

The participants elected Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and chairman of our country's delegation, as chairman of the senior officials meeting. The representatives of Sierra Leone, Pakistan, and the Philippines were elected as deputy chairmen and the representative of Bangladesh as referendary of the meeting.

The brother Foreign Ministry under secretary and chairman of the meeting delivered a speech in which he welcomed the participants. He said: I will not forget to point out the geographical, historic, and cultural factors that link us, in addition to the faith of unity in which we believe and behind which our peoples stand united. He noted that the main thrust of this meeting can be summed up in detailed and suitable preparation and profound study of the agenda of the 15th conference of Islamic foreign ministers. He affirmed that we in the YAR give great importance to Islamic conferences and meetings as we belong to the Islamic family and thus we followup all the events and developments affecting our Islamic world and contribute with an honest and responsible spirit and diligent work in order to strengthen the solidarity and unity of the Islamic countries and the establishment of security and stability in them considering that the security, stability and independence of Islamic countries represents inseparable unity.

The under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and chairman of our country's delegation said: The draft agenda set before the foreign ministers' conference is full of various political, economic, educational, and social issues which should be solved in objective and scientific ways by all to ensure the maximum degree of coordination and cooperation between our countries in these fields. The agenda of this meeting also comprises problems which are excessively dangerous, the most important of which is the situation in the Middle East, the developments of the Palestinian cause and the sufferings of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories and the various problems and causes related to them, in addition to the exhausting war which is entering its 5th year between the two neighboring Muslim countries, Iraq and Iran. Also, there is the phenomenon of drought inflicting many Islamic countries, the situation of Islamic minorities, and other problems and challenges that our Islamic nation is facing in this critical period of its history.

President Receives Secretary General

*GF171404 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT
17 Dec 84*

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president and commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today received Brother Habib Chatti, ICO secretary general, in his office at 1330. During the meeting they reviewed the preparations for the 15th Islamic foreign ministers' conference which will begin in Sanaa on 18 December.

President Meets Egypt's Al-Majid

NC171751 Cairo MENA in English 1605 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 17 (MENA) — President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received here tonight Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid who is leading his country's delegation to the ICO's foreign ministers conference, due to open here tomorrow.

MENA has learned that 'Abd al-Majid, who was the first foreign minister and chief delegate of the Islamic countries to be received by the Yemeni president, conveyed to President Salih a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak. The meeting was described as "extremely friendly". The meeting occurred only an hour after the arrival of Dr 'Abd al-Majid and is the first visit by an Egyptian foreign minister since several years.

Iran Calls for Egypt's Expulsion

*LD181235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT
18 Dec 84*

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Majlis announced that the Majlis Foreign Policies Commission has issued a statement on the presence of Egypt's representative at the ICO foreign ministers session in Sanaa. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: Egypt's presence at the ICO foreign ministers session in Sanaa at a time when it is carrying the burden of the disgraceful Camp David accords on its shoulders, and despite not agreeing to reject its commitments to America and the Zionist regime — although according to the irresponsible resolution passed by the ICO foreign ministers session in Casablanca in Morocco when it was superficially stated that Egypt must disregard the Camp David accords as a precondition for returning to the Arab fold and the fold of Muslim countries — disregards the holy Palestinian objective and the hopes of the ummah of Islam in the world to free the whole of the Palestine and noble Jerusalem from Zionist occupation.

Egypt's presence at the ICO completely adulterates the Islamic nature of the conference and is another step toward the Camp David accords. Simultaneous with the ICO foreign ministers session in Sanaa, the Majlis Foreign Policies Commission wishes to reiterate the need for a decisive confrontation by the resistance countries within the anti-Zionist front against the new unholy development brought about by Egypt's presence at the ICO proceedings and stresses the undesirable aspects of the presence

of Egypt's regime at an Islamic conference as reflected in the minds of the Islamic countries, and asks all member countries to take proper action to expel Egypt's representative from the conference, and help the unity of the ranks of Muslim countries against the Zionist regime and its major supporter the United States.

Iran's Velayati Arrives

*LD180647 Tehran IRNA in English 0640 GMT
18 Dec 84*

[Text] Sanaa, Dec 18, IRNA — Iran's Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Monday said that the main objective of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take part in international gatherings was to encourage officials of Muslim countries to take true Islamic stances in the Islamic world.

Velayati, speaking to reporters upon his arrival here to participate in the 15th session of foreign ministers of Muslim countries, added that Islamic states should take steps in a path leading towards the achievement of their rights.

The Iranian foreign minister later conferred with the heads of delegations from Libya, Syria, Algeria, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in separate meetings. During the meetings, the talks were mainly focused on the struggle against instigations of countries involved in the Camp David accords and current efforts by reactionaries to expand the agreement. Velayati also discussed an overall coordination on subjects to be brought up at the foreign ministers' session as well as further strengthening of Iran's relations with progressive countries of the region.

The 15th session of foreign affairs ministers of Islamic countries is due to be held here today with the participation of representatives of some 45 Muslim countries.

More Delegates Arrive

GF181143 [Editorial Report] Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic in its newscast at 1700 GMT on 17 December 1984 carries a 20-minute report on the arrival of ICO foreign ministers and officials, including: [name indistinct], minister of Ugandan president's office; Brother Ibrahim [name as heard], Senegalese foreign minister; Hashim 'Uthman, Sudanese foreign minister; A.A. Rahim, Indian minister of state for external affairs, as a Nonaligned Movement observer; Korom Hamet, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs; Habib Chatti, ICO secretary general; Mokhtar Kusumaatamaja, Indonesian foreign minister; 'Ismat 'Abd al-Hamid, Egyptian foreign minister; Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister; Halefoglu, Turkish foreign minister; Humayun Rashid Choudhury, Bangladeshi presidential adviser and chairman of the 14th session of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers; Said Madi Kafe, Cameroon foreign minister; Abdelouahed Belkeziz, Moroccan foreign minister; Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Pakistani finance minister; Mohamed Bolkiah, Bruneian foreign minister; 'Isam al-Na'ib, Syrian deputy foreign minister; Ibrahim 'Abdallah, Lebanese ambassador to Saudi

Arabia; Amin 'Abdallah, assistant secretary general of the World Islamic League; 'Abd al-Qadir Hamza Kushk, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Capitals and Towns; and 'Abd al-Qadir Muhammad, of the Islamic Organization for Education, Culture, and Sciences.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid expressed his happiness about participating in this conference, which is being held in a fraternal country, expressing hope that the conference will have positive results which serve the issues of the Islamic nation.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz expressed his happiness at attending the conference and said that "we are confident that the conference will succeed." Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that the principle objective of his country's participation in the conference is serious work and to urge participants from the Islamic countries to seriously work for Islamic issues.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Isam al-Na'ib hoped that the conference will achieve the goals of the Muslims.

Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic in its newscast at 1830 GMT on 17 December 1984 carries a 25-minute report on the arrival of more ICO officials, including: Yusuf ibn 'Abdallah ibn 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and information minister; 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison; Fathulla Jameel, Maldivian external affairs minister; and Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari foreign minister.

Conference 'Postponed'

*LD181139 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT
18 Dec 84*

[Text]Sanaa, Dec 18 (KUNA)— The opening of the 15th session of Islamic states foreign ministers conference, scheduled to be held here at 10 a.m. Tuesday, has been postponed. No official explanation was given on the postponement of the meeting, although all the participant delegations are already present. Conference sources said the opening session might be held later today if not postponed again. The heated arguments during the experts committee's meeting, between the Syrian and Egyptian delegations on the restoration of Egypt's seat on the ICO had charged the atmosphere of the conference, sources indicated. Although this was overstepped diplomatically, some delegations however predicted that the issue will mostly re-surface at the ministerial meeting, they concluded.

President Salih Receives Yasir 'Arafat

*GF161701 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT
16 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary

general of the General People's Congress, today received at 1300 Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. During the meeting they discussed the struggle relations between the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Brother Abu 'Ammar briefed his Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the results of the 17th conference of the PNC. Brother president expressed satisfaction with the results of this conference and affirmed the fixed and principled stand of support of the YAR for the Palestinian revolution and for bolstering the unity of the PLO.

Reportage on Visit of Sultan of Brunei

Sultan Arrives in Cairo

NC171118 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah and his wife arrived in Egypt today on a 3-day official visit during which he will hold talks with President Husni Mubarak.

Mubarak Receives Sultan

NC171159 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak and his wife received Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah and his wife at the republican palace in Al-Qubba today. An official reception was accorded to the sultan on his arrival at the palace. The national anthems of both countries were played and a 21-gun salute was fired. President Mubarak then accompanied the sultan to inspect a guard of honor. Children later presented bouquets to the sultan and his wife.

Mubarak Hosts Dinner Banquet

NC171917 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has hosted a dinner banquet in honor of His Majesty Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei, his wife, and the accompanying delegation. The president made a speech welcoming the guest of honor, his wife, and the accompanying delegation. The sultan responded with a speech thanking the president for the hospitality accorded to him in Egypt and stressing that the visit will further the friendship between their countries.

Before dinner, President Mubarak decorated the sultan of Brunei with the Nile necklace and his wife with the medal of perfection of the distinguished order. The sultan, in turn, decorated both Mubarak and his wife with the medal of the royal family.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives on 1-Day Visit

NC171500 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Amman on a 1-day stopover while en route to the ICO foreign ministers meeting in Sanaa tomorrow. Upon his arrival, the Jordanian foreign minister expressed his happiness at visiting Cairo. He was welcomed at the airport by Muhsin al-Diwani, the director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Jordanian Minister Leaves Cairo

NC180638 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Dec (MENA) — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Cairo this morning after stopping over in Cairo for several hours on his way to Sanaa to attend the Islamic

states' foreign ministers conference. He was seen off at the airport by Ambassador Muhsin al-Daywani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department; Jordanian Ambassador in Cairo Husayn Hamami; and staff members of the Jordanian Embassy.

Cameroonian Minister in Cairo En Route to YAR

NC151825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1758 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — (Muhammad Baba Salih), Cameroonian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation on a 1-day visit to Egypt en route to Sanaa to attend the Islamic conference. The Cameroonian delegation was received on arrival by Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, by Cameroonian Ambassador in Cairo Souaibou Haytoui, and by embassy staff.

Ghali Receives Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister

NC161855 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1837 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this evening received Hungarian Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Garai and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to Egypt. During the meeting, Dr Ghali reviewed the developments of the Middle East situation in light of the recent changes in Egyptian policy, which aim at achieving comprehensive peace based on the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights and the return of the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

The discussion during the meeting also dealt with bilateral relations, ways to develop them, and cooperation between Egypt and Hungary in all fields.

Omani Sultan's Adviser Arrives in Cairo

NC142035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — 'Umar al-Zawawi, a private adviser to Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit of several days to Egypt.

African Liberation Committee Delegation Arrives

NC161822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 16 Dec (MENA) — A delegation representing the Committee for the Liberation of Africa, led by O. Musuka, Zambian minister of state for foreign affairs and current chairman of the committee, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 3-day visit to Egypt.

The chairman of the committee said upon his arrival that he will meet with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to discuss ways of bolstering the liberation movement in Africa, particularly during the current critical stage in the struggle in South Africa and Namibia. He will also discuss Egypt's support for the committee's activities.

'Abd al-Majid on Arab, International Developments

NC151930 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT
15 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid this evening delivered a statement before a joint meeting of the Arab, Foreign, and National Security Committees of the People's Assembly. In his statement, the foreign minister dealt with the developments that have emerged in the Arab and international arenas and the effect of these developments on the Middle East area. The foreign minister said:

[Begin 'Abd al-Majid recording] Whoever follows political developments in the Arab region must observe the important signs which give rise to optimism and the possibility of effective moves regarding the peace process. These signs can be summed up as follows:

1. The resumption of diplomatic and political relations between Jordan and Egypt in September. Perhaps the Assembly members who participated in Egypt's delegation to the UN General Assembly session would have carefully noticed the reverberation produced by the courageous Jordanian decision among the various world delegates, and how this decision was highlighted by the world mass media, which said that the decision gives rise to optimism and makes it possible to reactivate the search for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

2. The convocation of the PNC's 17th session, the subsequent resolutions that reaffirmed independent Palestinian decisionmaking, and the application of democratic dialogue within the PLO's ranks. The resolutions condemned the sabotage attempts aimed at crushing the PLO, dismembering its ranks, and appointing substitute leaders. The resolutions, furthermore, reaffirmed adherence to the PLO's unity and its legitimacy. The resolutions emphasized the distinguished fraternal relations between the Palestinian and Jordanian peoples, and stressed the need to coordinate efforts and joint moves to regain the occupied Palestinian and Arab land. [end recording]

The minister pointed out that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent messages to European leaders asking them to contribute toward reactivating the situation and advancing the peace process to attain a clear-cut, peaceful settlement.

The minister then touched on developments that have emerged in the international arena, foremost among them being the reelection of President Reagan and the EEC summit meeting.

The foreign minister then discussed the outcome of the OAU's 20th summit conference held in Addis Ababa, saying that Egypt has exerted its utmost efforts to preserve the OAU's structure and its members' unity.

Mubarak Meets With Cairo University Council

NC161835 Cairo MENA in English 1705 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, Dec 16 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak today underlined the necessity that the university professors should be keen on their students, who represent the future of the

nation. Each professor should enlighten the students with all facts taking place, as well as with the development process, which is for the interest of the coming generations, he added.

President Mubarak said: We resort to the difficult road of the radical solution of problems and not to curing through sedatives, noting that the construction and development taking place now is for maintaining a better future.

Following the three and a half hour meeting with the Council of Cairo University, Minister of Information Al-Sharif said the president underlined his constant keenness to meet the professors and the university staff, to exchange views with them, and to expound to them Egypt's interior and foreign policy and to throw light on the various facts.

He added he puts the facts before the people without hiding any, as it is the right of each individual to be aware of the whole truth.

President Mubarak also said he wants to hear all views and opinions. The president listened to views by a number of university professors concerning numerous national and public issues, Al-Sharif said.

The president also expounded Egypt's foreign policy at the Arab and international levels, the developments of Arab relations and problems in the Mideast region.

President Mubarak asserted that the decision of King Husayn of Jordan to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt was a courageous step in the higher Arab interests. He stressed that Egypt's policy remains unchanged and Egypt will not allow the setting up of foreign bases on its land.

On the attacks launched by some radios on Egypt, the president said Egypt did not condescend to reply to such campaigns that attack Arab moderation. Neither does Egypt seek to fuel Arab differences nor sabotage relations among brethren.

Egypt exerts its utmost at all levels to settle Arab issues within a strategy that agrees with the higher interests of the Egyptian people, who are a part of the Arab nation, the president added.

AL-AKHBAR on Richard Murphy's Middle East Tour

NC170805 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Dec (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* expresses astonishment because U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy has refused to comment on Israel's oppressive actions on the pretext that such comment could harm the Israeli-Lebanese talks. The paper says that if Israel's barbaric actions are not considered harmful to the talks, is there anything else that can harm them, especially if it is a stand taken in support of right, justice, and peace?

The newspaper doubts whether Murphy will be able to activate the talks, basing this view on statements by U.S. officials as well as by Murphy, who said he has not come to negotiate, but to observe and support the Lebanese-Israeli talks. Murphy also

avoided voicing any support for an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper explains that this stand indicates that the United States is defying the will of 121 states, which support the convocation of this conference through a resolution issued by the UN General Assembly last week. The newspaper asks: Doesn't the United States see that this conference deserves to be supported?

The newspaper says: We wish Murphy success in his tour and talks, but we believe that success will elude him if the United States continues to postpone and procrastinate, and if it continues to content itself with quiet shuttle diplomacy.

Concluding, *AL-AKHBAR* says: We are afraid that after a short while all quarters will agree that the United States has ceased to adopt any constructive stand against Israel and its practices, which have been denounced by all the world. The Middle East problems need to be resolved now and can wait no longer.

MAYU Calls on Israel, U.S. To Recognize PLO

PM171440 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 10 Dec 84 p 16

[Mahmud 'Abd al-Mun'im Murad "Morning Talk" column]

[Text] One of the strangest things is the allegation by the Israeli leaders that the Arabs are afraid to face Israel in direct negotiations. Rather, they should admit their fear of facing the PLO. The PLO is a fact that no one can deny. However Israel and the United States may persist in refusing to recognize it, this does not mean that it does not exist; nor can the refusal or disregard go on forever. This situation is similar to the Arabs' refusal to acknowledge Israel for many years, when they used to call it "alleged Israel." But things developed and it has been recognized as a state and a UN member.

Despite all the aggressions and injustices Israel has committed, which have been condemned by the whole world except the United States, it will not be able to continue to refuse recognition of the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people after the United Nations, the great majority of world countries, and the Third World have recognized it as a world organization.

Unless the day when the two states accept the accomplished fact comes soon, serious problems will continue to exist in this vital part of the world. The situation will not become stable unless negotiation with the PLO is accepted, something that the whole world is calling for, including the West European countries — allies of the United States that cannot be accused of being biased in favor of the Arabs.

What is also strange is that the Israeli leaders allege that Egypt's support for the PLO and its rapprochement with the Arab countries, particularly Jordan, is regarded as deviation from peace. This is a gross and multifaceted misrepresentation. Peace with Israel does not mean a rupture between us and the Arabs, since the everlasting, historical, and inevitable ties between us and them can never be severed. Egypt will not discard the garb

of Arabism to embrace Israel. Whatever the conditions are now and regardless of what they were in the past years during which the Arab countries broke off relations with Egypt, they are bound to be rectified and put right. Even if relations between some of the Arab countries and Egypt are still severed, this is only a formality that cannot affect the essence of the matter — that Egypt is an Arab state, that the Arab countries are sister countries, and that the Arab peoples believe in the Arabism of the Egyptian people and in Egypt's pioneering role, influence, and effect.

Since for our part we reiterate that peace with Israel will not be affected by the restoration of normal relations between us and the Arab brothers, it behooves Israel to stress that its peace with Egypt will not be affected by the restoration of these relations. We absolutely reject the astonishing allegation that the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian solidarity is directly opposed to the Egyptian-Israeli peace.

On the contrary, Egypt's restoration of its position among the Arab countries is not a movement against Egyptian-Israeli peace, rather an opportunity to broaden the process of comprehensive and just peace between Israel and the rest of the Arab countries. Therefore if Israel really desires peace, as it alleges, then it should welcome the Egyptian-Arab rapprochement and use it as a means to improve the chances of peace and Arab-Israeli negotiations in general, and Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in particular, and to bring nearer the achievement of the desired goal — if its desired objective is really just and comprehensive peace, stability in the Middle East, and contribution to world peace in general.

Time will show that the continued Israeli intransigence supported by the United States is not in the interest of Israel, the United States, or the world. Israel cannot win the usurped land and peace with the people whose land it usurped, and the United States cannot win the friendship and support of the countries whose rights have been usurped while it is totally biased in favor of the usurpers and aggressors.

We Arabs can give practical testimony to this not by beating around the bush and talking at length about Arab rights and Palestinian rights, since these are known to everyone, but by adopting a unified Arab stand in support of the Palestinian decision as seen by the PLO, once it has freed itself from pressures and is enjoying its free will. When all the Arabs stand united behind the PLO and agree on a specified and declared stand, it will then become possible to effect the desired and inevitable change in Israel's intransigence and the U.S. support for it.

Just and comprehensive peace is the only way to secure the interests of everyone — the Arabs, Israel, the United States, and all the world peoples. Peace cannot be established without recognizing the PLO and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Once again we reiterate that peace between Egypt and Israel will never turn into a boycott between Egypt and the Arabs. It is not in Israel's interest to try to achieve this by alleging that peace is contrary to rapprochement and mutual support between Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan in particular, and the Arab world in general.

Justice is clear and the interests are clear as well. If Israel and the United States deny them now, it is only because we Arabs we are not quite united. When we become united, Israel and the United States will recognize justice and interests which are not contradictory.

Press Reacts to Israeli Operation in South Lebanon

AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-AHRAM View Action
NC150900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT
 15 Dec 84

[Press review]

[Excerpts] *AL-JUMHURIYAH* editorially comments on the new massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces in several villages in southern Lebanon, where innocent blood has been shed, and the dignity of scores of citizens has been injured through their arrest and incarceration in Israeli prisons. The newspaper notes that Israel has become completely accustomed to these bloody, terrorist operations, a firm tradition it has not given up since the Dayr Yasin massacre to the present time.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that this kind of bloody tradition is not pursued by normal, civilized states. All history books affirm this fact. Israel is the only state in the world established in this area out of nothing, with the collusion — there is no doubt about it — of powerful forces which do not want the Arab nation's peoples to exist. Israel is also the only state that believes its peace cannot be achieved except through the lack of peace and security for its neighbors. Israel believes that peace and its existence can only occur at the expense of neighboring people's rights.

Commenting on the same subject, *AL-AHRAM* editorially says that the Israeli forces' siege of seven villages in southern Lebanon, and their indiscriminate opening of fire at the inhabitants, cannot be considered an act consistent with Israel's declared position that it wants to withdraw from southern Lebanon, or with its participation with the Lebanese side in the Al-Naqurah talks.

AL-AHRAM adds: Even if Israel has explained, as was mentioned in the Israeli Military Command communique, that this operation was part of the efforts to prevent guerrilla attacks on the Israeli forces, no one can deny that the Israeli military forces present in southern Lebanon are foreign occupation forces. No one can also deny that the Lebanese national resistance is a legitimate national activity sanctioned by the world community's laws and charters.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Criticizes Israeli Policy
NC150508 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* calls on Israel to immediately withdraw from southern Lebanon, if it wants to avert Lebanese resistance attacks against its troops. But, if it insists on continuing its occupation of southern Lebanon, then the Lebanese people have

a primary and legitimate right to resist occupation by any means, to compel the occupation forces to withdraw.

In its Sunday commentary, the paper says that Israel's justification of its acts of aggression against southern Lebanon as retaliation for the resistance operations against it in the south is illogical and it rejects it.

The paper points out that Egypt's condemnation of the Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon, and Egypt's call on Israel to refrain from such acts, confirms the basic principles of two of Egypt's policies. The first concerns Egypt's Arab affiliation, in which it rejects any aggression by a non-Arab party against an Arab people, regardless of the excuses this party uses to justify its aggression. The paper adds that the second principle concerns Egypt's peace strategy, because Egypt is eager for a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Furthermore, Egypt believes that the chances for the establishment of peace depend on the creation of a suitable atmosphere and that the repeated Israeli acts of aggression on southern Lebanon, or the villages and towns in the occupied Arab territories, create an atmosphere detrimental to genuine peace.

The paper concludes its commentary by saying that the primary basis for peace is the immediate halt to the aggressive operations. The Israelis should stop fomenting tension through their attempt [to impose] their aggressive fait accompli. However, if the Israelis insist on pursuing their aggressive course, then that would refute all their claims that they desire peace, and would make such claims mere hollow one-upmanship that deceives no one.

Cairo Decries 'Fabrication' On Ra's Banas Base
NC161508 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT
 16 Dec 84

[Commentary by Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb: "A Last Word on the Issue of Ra's Banas"]

[Text] It is very funny when some Egyptians speak about the presence of a foreign military base in Egypt, as if someone had hidden this base, shrouded it with secrecy, and rendered it invisible.

This is an old story. When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, the Gulf states expressed the fear that this invasion would be a prelude to the Soviet Union's entry into warm waters — a fact that could endanger the Gulf's oil, which constitutes a lifeline for the Western world. During all of this, the late President al-Sadat declared that Egypt was ready to provide military facilities to the United States, in the event that some Islamic states were exposed to danger, provided that these states officially asked Cairo to do so. Experts then decided that Ra's Banas was the only place suitable for such facilities, in the event that the Gulf region was endangered.

Discussions were held on the preparations necessary to render Ra's Banas fit for the necessary missions. When President Mubarak came to power in October 1981, the subject was again proposed for discussion, with the condition that the United States would supply the base with modern military equipment. An

acrimonious debate ensued between Washington and Cairo over the issue of sovereignty over the base. Egypt declared that its free will and sovereignty, part and parcel of its basic principles and strategy, must prevail on its soil and must represent the basis of cooperation. The U.S. negotiators rejected Egypt's conditions, the Congressional committees failed to earmark the necessary money for financing the work at Ra's Banas, and that is where the issue was left.

Egypt, as always, accepted the challenge, and began to prepare Ra's Banas with its own resources and humble potential. Egypt could have postponed the subject for some time, were it not for the fact that Ra's Banas represents a good vantage point for the defense of fraternal Sudan, which is subjected almost daily to foreign plots intended to force it to end its cooperation with Egypt.

Since Egypt is working seriously to prepare the Ra's Banas base, it is seeking military expertise; as a result, foreign experts are present, operating under the thorough supervision of the Egyptian Administration. Thus, it is regrettable that some Egyptians have described the issue as one of foreign military bases, about which they fabricate details. Egyptian officials have handled the issue with complete calm, although they are fully aware that all of the reports about such bases are simply an attempt to provoke partisan divisions. The Egyptian officials, nonetheless, allowed a team of university and press men to visit the area to ensure that Ra's Banas is not a foreign base, and that all who man it, including some foreign experts, are subject to Egyptian decisions.

The file on this issue should be closed. We must reiterate that there are many real and pressing issues facing the homeland, and that they are very complicated. It is unfair that the government should be alone in its struggle to ensure development, to provide

services, and to avoid price hikes, while others devote their time to the fabrication of issues liable to cause chaos and incite tension.

Mubarak To Open New AKHBAR AL-YAWM Premises
NC152144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Dec (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak will open the new premises of the *AKHBAR AL-YAWM* company early next week. In Sunday's edition, *AL-AKBAR* newspaper says that the president will hold a meeting with the company's newspaper and magazine editors after inspecting the new premises.

AL-AKBAR says that the project cost 25 million pounds, including 21 million pounds in hard currency.

Briefs

Diverse Nuclear Fuel Suppliers — Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA) — Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has said that Egypt's policy is to diversify its sources of uranium as fuel for the nuclear station that will be built in the area of Al-Dibalah, and which will be used for peaceful purposes. In a statement for *AL-AHRAM*'s Saturday edition, Abazah added that Egypt has signed six international agreements to obtain uranium as fuel [words indistinct] Australia, Niger, the United States, Canada, France, the FRG, and Britain. [Text] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 14 Dec 84 NC*]

Successful Raids on Maritime, Other Targets

JN171750 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Communique No 1,683 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 December 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq, whose defeated enemies wanted to weaken it and tried to place obstacles along the path of its progress and development, is getting stronger, obtaining an elevated status among the people of the world. It is also pressing forward to build the edifice of freedom, consolidate justice, and achieve happiness for the citizens, thanks to Almighty God and the efforts of both the great leader and the innocent people. Through daring action and efficient performance, the people's Armed Forces are daily confirming that they are the best guards of the homeland's borders and the best defender of the great people's accomplishments. The results of activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. In confirmation of proud Iraq's determination to block the passageways in the face of the suspect Iranian regime's war effort, the brave sky hawks carried out one of their notorious raids against a large maritime target south of Khark Island at 1430 [1130 GMT] today, scoring direct and effective hits. They triumphantly returned with their aircraft, praise be to God, thus confirming Iraq's ability to continue its blockade of all the outlets by which the regime of charlatanism in Iran is trying to perpetuate its aggression.
2. The brave heroes of the helicopter gunships carried out a devastating air strike against an enemy troop concentration and some boats in the Maysan sector. They destroyed seven boats carrying personnel and killed or wounded several enemy troops. Some of the enemy troops could be seen fleeing the fierce Iraqi fire. Our pilots returned safely and victoriously with their helicopters, praise be to God.
3. One of our forward units engaged several enemy positions, troops, observation posts, and weaponry in the central sector of the operational theater, destroying four infantry positions along with their occupants, one heavy machine gun with its crew, and one observation post. Elsewhere in the same sector, one enemy soldier was captured and evacuated to the rear.
4. The brave artillery men carried out concentrated strikes against enemy positions, troop concentrations, and weapon emplacements in the operational sector east of Basra, killing five, wounding others, destroying one vehicle, damaging another vehicle, and starting fires in enemy positions. The enemy was seen evacuating its losses.
5. One of our patrols seized serviceable equipment and hardware while carrying out its duty in the northern sector of the operational theater.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 December 1984

Further Attack 18 Dec

JN181117 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. But if they violate their oaths after their covenant, and taunt you for your Faith, Fight ye the chiefs of unfaith: For their oaths are nothing to them. [Koranic verse]

With God's help, a successful air strike was carried out against a large maritime target south of Khark Island this morning. The target was accurately and effectively hit. Our aircraft fighters returned safely and triumphantly to base, praise be to God. God is great. Loftiness and victory for great Iraq and its intrepid Army, and defeat and humiliation to Iraq's rancorous and suspect enemies.

18 December 1984

Vessels Warned From Entering Prohibited Zone

JN180818 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA) — *AL-THAWRAH* has warned all foreign companies, shipowners, and crewmen who are dealing with the Iranian regime not to enter the prohibited zone Iraq has defined as being a military zone.

AL-THAWRAH said that the Iraqi Armed Forces will be lying in wait for adventurers, their vessels, and their crewmen, irrespective of their nationality. The paper reaffirmed that Iraq's decision to obstruct Iranian oil exports is irrevocable, adding that anyone who violates this siege and defies Iraq's will, tempted by profits, will have only himself to blame.

The paper added that the years of the war have shown that Iraq's arm is very long and strong, that it can reach any place on enemy territory, and carry out the most difficult and most accurate combat missions.

AL-THAWRAH explained that Iraq's determination to sever Iran's oil artery and stifle its economy will continue as long as the Tehran rulers continue their aggression against Iraq and continue to deprive it of its legitimate right to use its ports and the high seas in the Arab Gulf.

'New Sophisticated Weapons' Readied for Use

JN171258 Baghdad INA in English 1225 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — The Iraqi Armed Forces will use new sophisticated weapons they have never used before to curb any would-be Iranian aggression on Iraq, *AL-QADISIYAH* daily said.

The daily, organ of the Iraqi Defence Ministry, affirmed in an editorial published here today that the Iraqi forces "this time will not only deter and repulse the offensive, but are determined to annihilate the invaders."

Pointing out that Iraq's military intelligence bodies were fully aware of the maneuvers and logistic moves of the enemy, *AL-QADISIYAH* warned that the Iranian forces this time would be shattered totally.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Sanaa ICO Session

JN171153 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Dec (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Sanaa at noon today to head the Iraqi delegation to the 15th ICO ministerial session to begin there tomorrow.

During the 2-day meeting, the ministers will discuss an agenda including the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in the Arab arena, and other issues of interest to the Islamic world.

The delegation accompanying Tariq 'Aziz comprises the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the awqaf and religious affairs under secretary, and officials from both ministries.

President Receives Message From Zambia's Kaunda

JN181045 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on relations of friendship and cooperation between their two countries.

The message was delivered to Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, when he received (David Very), Zambian Central Bank governor and President Kaunda's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

UN Committee on POW's To Visit Region in January

JN172005 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] United Nations, 17 Dec (INA) — A spokesman for UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has said that the UN committee on POW's in Iraq and Iran will begin its mission next month. At the beginning of next month, the committee will leave for Geneva to become acquainted with the latest reports presented by the Iraqi and Iranian Governments before paying a 6-day working visit to Iraq and then to Iran. This UN committee, whose work has been obstructed by the Iranian regime, was formed by the UN secretary general last November in order to look into the International Committee of the Red Cross report that the Iranian regime killed a number of Iraqi POW's in Iran's Gorgan Camp.

Briefs

New Banknote Issued — The National Assembly today approved the issuance of a 25 Iraqi Dinar banknote. It will bear the picture of President Saddam Husayn. [Excerpts] [*Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Dec 84 JN*]

Husayn Comments After Meeting Mitterrand

PM171527 Paris LE MONDE in French 16-17 Dec 84 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Mr Mitterrand and King Husayn Assess Situation in Near East"]

[Text] The development of the situation in the Near East since Francois Mitterrand's visit to Amman in July was examined for 1 hour at the Elysee on Friday 14 December by King Husayn of Jordan and the French head of state.

"France has an important role to play in the Near East in seeking a solution to the region's problems, as I have often said," the Hashemite king recalled as he left the Elysee. He stressed that the meeting "concentrated on all the developments which have taken place in the region recently," referring in particular to Mr Mitterrand's visit to Syria at the end of November and Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Paris last week.

Nonetheless, King Husayn stressed that he had no comment to make at present either on France's possible role as intermediary between Israel, Syria, and Jordan or on a new secret diplomacy which Mr Peres is apparently trying to conduct with the Arab countries.

When in Paris the Israeli prime minister denied reports that he had a secret meeting with King Husayn, while he did express the desire to have direct talks with him "publicly or in secret." On Friday the Hashemite king said that he has had no contact with Mr Peres.

He added that Mr Peres had problems as a result of "the different factions which strongly oppose each other within his Cabinet." "There are even ministers who think that Jordan is part of Israel," he remarked with irony.

Regarding the Near East's future, the king said it is necessary "for everybody to understand that the time has come to make every effort, in the interest of future generations, to establish a just and lasting peace before it is too late." He expressed the hope that "dialogue with the Palestinians will continue and be fruitful, to overcome the current deadlock."

Al-Masri, Delegation Depart for ICO Meeting

JN161652 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri heads Jordan's delegation to the 15th session of the ICO Foreign ministers' meetings. The delegation left Amman this afternoon for Sanaa, where the session will begin on Tuesday.

The 5-day session will discuss many political and economic issues on the agenda. The current developments related to the Middle East problem, the Palestinian cause, Jerusalem, the Iraq-Iran war, the situation in Afghanistan, and the problems of Islamic minorities in the world are at the top of these issues. The ICO foreign ministers will also discuss ways to reinforce economic cooperation among the ICO countries, establishing universities in the Islamic countries, setting a date and venue for the ICO foreign ministers' meetings, electing a new ICO secretary general, and forming an Islamic court of justice. The Ministers will also discuss the international ISLAMIC NEWS AGENCY and elect the permanent council for the Islamic solidarity fund.

Al-'Anani Issues New Import Regulations

JN180950 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 18 Dec 84 pp 1, 23

[Text] Amman — Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Jawad al-'Anani yesterday called on the Union of Chambers of Commerce to inform importers that they must obtain an import license from the Ministry of Industry and Trade before signing trade agreements and contracts or shipping merchandise to Jordan. Sources of the Ministry of Industry and Trade said that this decision was in accordance with the requirements of the current circumstances. The sources added that the Ministry will issue instructions to organize the process of importation in order to restrict and prevent the importation of specific commodities with the objective of supporting and protecting national production. The sources said that in accordance with the provisions of Articles 13 and 20 of the import regulations, the Ministry will not issue import licenses for products already shipped before or after the announcement of this decision. This decision became effective yesterday.

U.S. Delegation to Beirut To Discuss Hijacking*GF161324 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Dec (WAKH) — Press reports in Kuwait said today that the U.S. Government has asked the Lebanese Government through its ambassador in Beirut, Reginald Bartholomew, to supply it with detailed information on the means through which the hijackers of the Kuwaiti aircraft could penetrate Beirut Airport to Dubayy.

The newspaper *AL-SIYASAH* said that the hijackers entered the aircraft with the assistance of one of the security men at the Beirut Airport and without having their names recorded in the passenger lists. The paper pointed out that as reported earlier, the hijackers do not have Lebanese nationality; they belong to other nationalities. They came to Lebanon 4 months ago and lived in a region far from the influence of the Lebanese authorities.

The paper said that a U.S. delegation will leave for Beirut during the next 2 weeks to meet with responsible parties in Lebanon to exchange information on this incident and related issues.

A Kuwaiti plane was hijacked by four people while on a flight to Karachi from Dubayy. The hijacking incident lasted 6 days and ended last Sunday.

Al-Naqurah Round Concludes; To Reconvene 20 Dec*NC171433 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] The second round of Al-Naqurah talks ended at 1500 today. The Lebanese and Israeli military delegations had a recess at 1430 for consultations before formulating the final statement and concluding today's talks. UN spokesman Timor Goksel announced the conclusion of today's session and said that the coming session of Al-Naqurah talks will be held on 20 December.

Prime Minister Karami Discusses UNIFIL, Talks*NC171316 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today spoke about the Lebanese position toward UNIFIL in the south. He affirmed Lebanon's appreciation of the role UNIFIL is playing, as well as Lebanon's support for expanding this role, provided that this expansion is carried out within the framework of preserving Lebanon's sovereignty and rights.

Prime Minister Karami was replying to a question in an interview with REUTER news agency, on what has been reiterated about Israeli proposals to have UNIFIL, which has been present in south Lebanon since 1978, deploy in areas north of the Al-Litani River, which is about 15 kilometers from the international borders in the south.

Prime Minister Karami said: We put on record our appreciation of the task and role which the UN emergency forces are performing in Lebanon because our expectations to liberate our

territory and maintain our sovereignty and preserve our rights depend on this role. While supporting the expansion of the role of these forces' role in their operations area, we say "no" when this role is meant to involve most parts of Lebanon, because there is no justification for this.

Prime Minister Karami added: We in Lebanon are not prepared to abandon our responsibility or renounce our sovereignty and duty to carry out whatever serves our people and achieves their higher interests. Prime Minister Karami went on to say: If they — the Israelis — aim at controlling the UN emergency forces and, through them, some Lebanese areas to continue with their arrogance and practices by engaging in further violations and pressures on us and our people we say "no."

Prime Minister Karami reiterated Lebanon's stand on UNIFIL by saying: We support the emergency forces where they should be and where it is necessary for them to be present. We have delineated south of Al-Litani, especially up to the international borders. These forces must be a support for our Army in extending its authority over all these areas, and not as Israel would like — that the emergency forces should be the basis and that the Army support them.

Referring to the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations that have been going on for over a month at UNIFIL headquarters in Al-Naqurah, and which aim at ending the 30-month Israeli occupation of Lebanese areas, the prime minister said: I am aware through the talks in Al-Naqurah that the Israelis are still insisting on partitioning the south, western Al-Biq'a, and Rashayya into two areas:

1. An area in which the emergency forces will be responsible for security.
2. An area that will be under the control of Lahd, the commander of the so-called army of south Lebanon militias, which are supported by Israel.

If the Israelis are expressing reservations about the presence of the emergency forces to carry out their duties on the international borders, it is because they want to maintain the crossing points to keep the southern territory open to their ambitions, practices, and aggressions.

Prime Minister Karami added: For this reason, we appreciate the role of the UN forces and are prepared to facilitate their task because, in the final analysis, they serve the principles for which Lebanon is struggling in the name of international legitimacy.

The prime minister began the interview by emphasizing Lebanon's support for the United Nations, regarding it as a refuge for the oppressed. He said: We support the United Nations and its role of supporting the rights of the oppressed people of the world. For this reason, we have been regarding it as a refuge and recourse for every oppressed person. This is why we resort to it on every occasion in which we are subjected to inhuman and fascist aggressions and practices, despite our constant observations that the United Nations is sometimes incapable of carrying out what is requested of it, and that its resolutions are often not implemented. Despite this, the United Nations remains a source of hope.

Further on Army Officer's Death, Bombings

Army Issues Statement

NC141038 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1015 GMT
14 Dec 84

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Army's Guidance Directorate on 14 December]

[Text] At 0800 today, the Lebanese Army lost one of its commanders, Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil Abu Rabi'ah, when he was subjected to a treacherous attack in the Al-Hamra' area by unidentified gunmen. The attack took place when Lt Col Abu Rabi'ah was going to his office in a military car. Private Ghazi Salim Hanqa was also martyred, while Corporal Salim Ghalib Haydar was seriously wounded.

Regime Blamed for Assassination

NC141937 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1730 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] An official source at the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] today made the following statement regarding the criminal assassination of Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil Abu Rabi'ah in Beirut:

While all efforts are geared toward reaching a national formula for the liberation of the south and the restoration of tranquillity throughout Lebanon, and after the Islamic and patriotic forces united in foiling the regime's attempt to encircle the mountain and occupy the Al-Kharrub region, the regime escalated the internal situation in an attempt to bring the country back to the times of booby-trapped cars and political assassinations.

The PSP would like to make the following remarks:

1. The assassination of Abu Rabi'ah is one in a string of assassinations designed by the regime's organs — the organs which assassinated Shaykh Halim Taqiy al-Din, which made an attempt on the life of former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, and which planted the car bombs in 'Alayh and near the Druze sect headquarters.

2. Those who perpetrated the crime of [words indistinct] are the same ones who assassinated Martyr Abu Rabi'ah. Their media revealed their true identity when it continued to fabricate imaginary motives that no one believes any longer. Their attempts to drive a wedge in the patriotic-Islamic camp or between the members of the same sect are doomed to failure — being merely a coverup for the crime.

3. The relapse of the regime and its organs into this type of action happens after their failure to isolate the PSP. It betrays their intention to obstruct all the efforts aimed at establishing peace and security. They would do anything to have their way, regardless of the devastating consequences to Lebanon and the Lebanese.

4. The Israeli oppression and terrorism in the south is, in our opinion, linked to the similar practices followed by the regime

and its organs — practices that serve Israeli designs and reflect their bias towards Israel.

5. We call on all compatriots to take note of the regime's relapse into old practices — the practices which have left their mark on Al-Shahhar, Beirut, the southern suburb, and the south. We call on our compatriots to beware of these practices. We reiterate that we will be able to stop them in the appropriate way and at the appropriate time.

6. While mourning Martyr Abu Rabi'ah as an honorable fighter who served the country and the people, the PSP pledges to the memory of the martyrs that it will carry on confronting the designs of hegemony, terrorism, and oppression at all costs.

Explosions in Al-Shuf Linked to Intelligence Apparatus

NC151823 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1730 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Anwar al-Fatayri, the secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], today revealed the identity of those who carried out the explosion incidents and those who supported them — the incidents in Al-Shuf last night and similar ones in various areas. At a news conference today, Al-Fatayri accused the Lebanese Army Intelligence apparatus of having perpetrated the explosion incidents in the mountain against the lives and property of defenseless citizens.

Al-Fayri said: Yesterday, we received a new message from Colonel Simon Qassis and his aides Salah Mansur and 'Atallah 'Atallah, who are known for their affiliation to terrorist Elie Hubayqah. The message was given on the two explosions carried out by two Army men. One of them is with the 8th Brigade, the second is a corporal from the engineering battalion in Al-Yarza. This clear message is a follow up to the first message, the 'Alayh explosion, to the second message, the explosion in the Druze community house, and to the third message, the assassination of Lieutenant Colonel 'Adil Abu Rabi'ah.

Al-Fatayri added: We convey this information to public opinion. We hope that this information will reach the prime minister, who is discussing the security plan so that an agreement may be reached on confronting this hellish plan aimed at intimidating the mountain sons.

PSP Police Execute 'Criminal'

NC181020 *(Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1000 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Criminal Raja Yusuf Zaytuni was executed this morning. The security police of the Progressive Socialist Party have announced that in accordance with a decision issued by a security court, the death sentence was carried out on the said criminal in the Bayt al-Din barracks at 0600 today. The criminal was found guilty of participating recently in a series of terrorist acts in Al-Shuf, including the explosion in Al-Baruk in which Sulayman Husayn al-Sayigh was killed.

DAILY STAR Details Bombings

NC181104 Beirut the DAILY STAR in English 17 Dec 74 p 2

[Text] A Druze Shaykh held a news conference Sunday, disowning his son for planting bombs in the Al-Shuf.

Sulayman Husayn al-Sayigh was killed as the bomb he was trying to place in a Baruk gas station Saturday morning exploded, the PSP said. Two companions were wounded and were arrested by the PSP, which immediately blamed the government's intelligence service for planning the attacks. The PSP has not released the names of the two wounded detainees.

Police say the three started their journey of destruction Saturday morning in the Al-Shuf central town of B'aqlin, where they tried to plant a bomb just outside PSP headquarters. Tough security drove them off, sources said.

Passing through two PSP checkpoints, the three went to the village of Kafr Nabrakh and placed an explosive charge in front of Raji Halawi's restaurant. It went off at about 10 a.m., damaging the restaurant and a car and truck that were parked nearby, sources said.

At 10:20 a.m., according to the sources, the trio came to Batlun, where they put a second bomb at a barber shop. It exploded, damaging the shop and vehicles parked in front of it.

Arriving in Baruk, the car pulled up in front of Fayiz Mahmud's gas station. Al-Sayigh, the sources say, jumped out with the third bomb in his hands. But it went off accidentally, killing Al-Sayigh and wounding his accomplices. Thinking a shell had landed, many Baruk residents rushed to the scene and described seeing the terrorists surrounded by black smoke and covered in blood. One villager said a woman asked to be pulled far away from the car because it was loaded with explosives.

As soon as the villagers got the two survivors away, the car burst into flames. PSP bomb disposal experts say they found a watch, batteries, and sophisticated bomb tools at the scene.

The PSP immediately held a news conference to blame the government's intelligence service for the bombs, and to threaten that other such actions would be answered with violence. Anwar Fatayri, secretary general of the PSP, named Col Simon Qassis as architect of the bomb plot, along with his two assistants, Salah Mansur and 'Atallah 'Atallah.

Fatayri said the three explosions were planned to "complete the message" started with recent bombs in 'Alayh, near the Druze Community Center in Beirut, and with the assassination of Druze Lt Col 'Adil Abu Rabi'ah. "What happened here," Fatayri said, "was the missionary of the security plan which the government and its mercenaries have been propagating."

The father of the man killed by the third bomb held a news conference Sunday to disown his son, the PSP said. Shaykh Husayn al-Sayigh, said, "We, the Al-Sayigh family, strongly denounce the incidents that have resulted in grave consequences to our people."

Al-Sayigh, who lives in the village of Sharun in the upper Al-Matn, said his family had nothing to do with his son's actions. He also attacked the Army, where his son reportedly served in the 8th Brigade. "We sent our sons to the Army to teach them how to love their nation, not graduate as killers."

Phalange Party, Lebanese Forces on Security Plan**Karamah Reiterates Stand**

NC171319 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] During a meeting of the Phalange Party Political Bureau and Central Council, Phalange Party leader Dr Elie Karamah said that despite repeated amendments to the security plan, the final version of the plan has not yet been completed because of proposals and conditions set forth by certain parties each time an agreement is reached on a draft security plan. He added: On our part, we still adhere to the need for Lebanese Army deployment on the coastal road and in Iqlim al-Kharrub. We are concerned, he said, that we settle this issue before new developments occur. We of course adhere to keeping Al-Jiyah port open for the travel of Christian citizens between Beirut and Iqlim al-Kharrub and southern Lebanon until they are able to use the land road.

Karamah further said: The implementation of the plan must take place in such a way as to reassure the people about staying in their villages without fear of incidents.

He said: The Army must take security precautions to guarantee safe deployment without encountering new setbacks.

We are concerned, he said, that the security plan for the coastal road and Iqlim al-Kharrub will not encounter the setbacks that faced the security plan for Greater Beirut, where there are still loopholes and where security has not been established despite several attempts to make it succeed.

Lebanese Forces Reject Junblatt

NC171935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] At its weekly meeting tonight, the Lebanese Forces Command stressed that the current constraints on the security plan for the coastal road and Iqlim al-Kharrub would render its implementation ineffective. A decision to respond to the views held by obstructing parties, such as Minister Junblatt, might render the Army a hostage, in terms of its movement and deployment in limited areas, while maintaining Junblatt's domination in the Sunnite Iqlim al-Kharrub areas and other coastal highway areas from Khaldah to Al-Damur.

The Lebanese Forces have requested that the government, before doing anything else, act to ensure the security, presence, and freedom of the Christians who remain on their land in Iqlim al-Kharrub. The government should also ensure that they, and Christians in the south in general, may freely communicate with and travel to the capital and other areas of the country. The

Army's deployment in Iqlim al-Kharrub must be effective and secure for the Army itself, before it can act to guarantee the citizens' security and safety. Grave consequences would result should the Army be exposed to isolation and siege, for which the government will be held responsible if it gives in to Junblatt's impossible conditions and yields to his military pressure, which is coupled with rejection of some foreign quarters and leniency toward others.

Birri Holds 'Extended Meeting' With U.S. Envoy
NC171503 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1400 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri held an extended meeting with U.S. Ambassador Reginald Bartholomew today to discuss the Lebanese situation, with particular emphasis on the Al-Naqurah talks, which hope to secure an Israeli withdrawal.

Speaker Calls for Unity Against Israel
PM171015 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 8 Dec 84 p 3

[Interview with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni by Manar Burs — date, place not given]

[Excerpts] Burs: Some people believe that the Lebanese problem will be solved soon. Do you agree?

Al-Husayni: I believe that there are signs of international relaxation. The result is that the intensity of the international conflict in our region in general and Lebanon in particular has somewhat eased. This makes it possible for Lebanon, with Syrian support, to settle its internal problems and promote a reasonable degree of internal unity in favor of steadfastness and the liberation of our territory. We are hopeful that the day of salvation is near.

Burs: How do you view the government's position, bearing in mind the complications which sometimes prevent Cabinet meetings?

Al-Husayni: We are faced with an extraordinary situation and therefore we should not pass hasty judgement. We should be careful in our assessment of the government. The Cabinet was formed on the basis that its members were the parties most capable of influencing the fighters. It accomplished a part of its mission when it stopped the fighting. Because of its failure to achieve more, we should do two things:

1. Put pressure on the government to make it show more solidarity, and also help the government and give it political support to enable it to make the difficult decisions we expect it to make.

2. If the situation calls for a Cabinet reshuffle or expansion, then I have no objection, provided that the possibility of taking the difficult decisions is kept in mind.

Burs: There are rumors about the return of the Palestinians to Beirut. Are they true? What do you think?

Al-Husayni: The Palestinians are in Lebanon and we are eager to maintain our national links with them. Lebanon helped them in the past and made great sacrifices to enable them to regain their legitimate national rights. Lebanon is still committed to that, but the file of Palestinian military presence in Lebanon has been closed and it is in neither the national nor the pan-Arab interest to reopen it. The Lebanese people are performing their national duties in an exemplary manner. They have set an example to all nations in the defense of their dignity and their land. When we need help from any other Arab people, we will not hesitate to ask for it, because that is a pan-Arab duty. However, the help we want from the Palestinians is that they let us handle our own affairs.

Burs: There are fears that any partial Israeli withdrawal might lead to internal sedition similar to the sedition which occurred in the mountain region. Do you think that is possible?

Al-Husayni: Israel was able to cause sedition in the mountain region. It prepared and paved the way for it with its first partial withdrawal. Israel would not have delayed its withdrawal even for one moment if it thought that it could foment the same kind of sedition. Still, we should take this threat into consideration, quickly reopen the coast road, and send the Lebanese Army to deal with any such eventuality.

Burs: What do you think of the Lebanese national resistance?

Al-Husayni: Resistance should not only be confined to armed resistance. It should cover everything, including not talking to Israeli occupation troops. It is a general resistance with all available means. We believe that the Lebanese people should unite more behind the aim of expelling the occupation forces from our territory. It is the government's duty to provide the necessary requirements and means of steadfastness to enable the people to do their great national duty.

Burs: How likely are the Lebanese-Israeli military talks under UN supervision to succeed against a background of Israeli intransigence?

Al-Husayni: We should not assume that there is even an iota of goodwill on the Israeli enemy's side. Israel has always survived on aggression. It has been continuously committing aggression, occupation of territory, and displacement and deportation of the indigenous people. We are holding the negotiations through the 1949 armistice commission because we want to preserve the support of international legitimacy for our rights. We cannot refuse to enter into such negotiations because that would make us appear to be against international legitimacy and to be abandoning the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. That would play into the hands of Israel, which is always against international legitimacy and is always violating UN resolutions and legitimacy.

Burs: There are those who fear that these negotiations might lead to political results.

Al-Husayni: These negotiations have no political nature or scope. They are strictly military negotiations regarding security arrangements in implementation of international resolutions.

Burs: A new U.S. move is underway in Lebanon. What do you think of it?

Al-Husayni: We do not reject any move aimed at implementing UN resolutions, but U.S. credibility depends on its ability to put pressure on Israel. If it cannot do that, then it has no credibility in this region.

Weekly Warns of Country's 'Grim' Future

PM171656 Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 10-16 Dec 84 pp 4,5

[Chief Editor Jubran Tuwayni article: "Fear Is the Christians' Right, and Reassurance Is the Muslims' Duty"]

[Excerpts] This week we publish maps of the new demographic situation in Lebanon after the war, particularly the situation of Christians [reference to maps published on pages 38-41 showing population distribution and military deployments at various stages since 1975].

Some people could accuse us of deliberately trying to incite sectarianism or wanting to reignite sectarian sedition. Others may accuse us of simply being sectarians biased in favor of a certain community. Others yet may draw the conclusion that publishing these maps now is harmful to the so-called attempt to reestablish cohesion among the Lebanese and will make what is left of the Christians even more afraid.

But we say that what we are publishing in this issue are not simply maps, but facts. Painful, terrible, and threatening facts. We publish them because we believe that speaking the truth and letting the citizen "know" is more important than any wound that might be caused by speaking the truth. Moreover, the wound, however painful, would create positiveness, namely a shock.

The shock of consciousness and awareness — awareness of the Lebanese national responsibility. We have long lacked this awareness in Lebanon. Through such awareness we will be able to see and understand the truth about and the way we can fight and abort the conspiracy — the conspiracy in which we, great and small, from the highest to the lowest, were unfortunately the effective tools.

We publish the facts today so as to tell the people that the war, should it continue with all the sectarian incitement attendant on it, will finally do away with our country and with the justifications for its existence. We have always used the term justification of Lebanon's existence without realizing the danger of that justification's vanishing or deeply understanding the meaning of justification.

Today, after 10 years of war, when we conscientiously look at the maps and at the outcome of our war, or rather wars, we will be astounded to realize the danger of the possibility that the justification could vanish. This justification is simply coexistence — coexistence among all the communities on one single land, and with one single national objective within a single central government.

What is left of this coexistence today? What remains is that we now live in various geographical spots in our country; we live as communities in our reactions, behaviors, and daily life.

We live, and the war lives alongside us; the war of the conspiracy that continuously reminds us that our war is sectarian, make us become more and more extremist, and prods us into hating one another to the point of massacring one another, shelling one another, and abducting one another. Indeed, it drives us toward trying to eliminate one another while imagining that we are "triumphing" against one another.

All of us have connived at and taken part in assassinating this country. Today we must try to find a solution enabling us to get out of this predicament and save what is left of our country. We all, Christians and Muslims, must try to find a new formula that enables us to regain Lebanon.

It is for this reason that we have published the maps — the facts — so that every citizen will be responsible, if only morally. Responsible either for salvation of or continuing the assassination of the country. The division has occurred on the territory of Lebanon and the communities have been divided according to areas. Some of these communities are frightened, particularly the Christians.

The Christians have been accused of being the privileged community in Lebanon, and the propaganda, intelligence, "ideological", and sectarian trumpets have portrayed them as the "occupiers" of the whole country. The Christians have been falsely accused. The conspiracy has been able to convince the Muslims that war should be waged against "Christian privileges" which, in the state of madness, have become Christian and nothing else.

We do not wish here to hurt anyone's feelings, but it is the right of Christians to be afraid today, and it is the duty of Muslims to reassure the Christians. They should reassure them more than they did in 1942. This is the reality and the fact of the matter as we see it today.

When we say reassurance, we do not mean giving the Christians the status of a minstate. No, a thousand times no. The Christians do not want a state or minstate, because they fully realize that any plan of this kind would only be suicidal and would lead to the disappearance of the Christians and of Lebanon.

So what is first required if we want to halt the conspiracy, is to halt the civil war and to ease pent-up feelings. We then should try together to draw up a new plan for Lebanon — a plan that does not stem from the present geographical situation, but from the present psychological and emotional reality.

We must admit that an Islamic state in Lebanon is impossible, because if it is declared even for a single moment, it will be the moment that precedes the end of the country. This also applies to a Christian state or a Druze state. There is no future for ministates, even if the whole region is divided into ministates.

When the Christians spoke about reassurances and tried to make the other party understand that reassurances did not mean privileges, they were trying to create a state of disengagement

between them and the war, because the war was more and more taking on a sectarian character.

But the conspiracy made the Muslims interpret the reassurances as privileges, and they therefore refused to give them, which made the Christians even more afraid, exacerbated the war, and suppressed the spirit of all the people.

The people must realize that if this war continues and the Christian presence ceases, then Lebanon will not remain on this earth. The people must realize that the Lebanese are bleeding their Lebanese brothers and that the only side to benefit from this is the side looking for the destruction of Lebanon, the side or the sides that have always feared Lebanon as the country of liberties, democracy, coexistence, and the freedom of thought, parties, and press.

The people must realize that it is very important today that no battle like the battle of Al-Kharrub District should take place, and that the district should not fall — not just out of sympathy for the innocent, but also out of fear and sympathy for the country.

The people must realize that when the mountain battle took place, it was not a battle against the "Lebanese forces" but a battle aimed at evicting the Christians so that this fatal division would take place. The people must realize that it is necessary for

those who have left their land, to return to it, and that they should return not as refugees but as land owners.

No to conspiracy, despite the bitter reality. The Christian will cling more and more to Lebanon and to his cause, the cause of Lebanon, because he has become aware of this grave reality and of its causes and ends. The Christian will continue to do all he can to leave for the coming generations not the memories of a homeland that was, but a formula that will perpetuate the homeland forever.

No to conspiracy. This time the formula will be worked out peacefully because the Lebanese Muslim will not be driven into believing the slogans of war either, because he will also work with the Christian to bring about that formula.

Briefs

Colombian Ambassador Ends Tour — Prime Minister Rashid Karami this morning received in his office at Government House Mr Alberto Caradona Jaramillo, the Colombian ambassador to Lebanon, who came to bid the prime minister farewell on the occasion of his departure from Lebanon. [Text] [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Dec 84 NC]

Foreign Minister Receives UN Officials

JN171818 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Jean-Claude Aime, assistant deputy UN secretary general for political affairs, and Major General Stahl, commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Force in Syria, this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Major General 'Adnan Tayyarah. The talk during the meeting dealt with the UN forces' role in achieving an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Aime affirmed to the minister that the UN forces' principal task in Lebanon is confined to its deployment on the border strip between Lebanon and Israel.

Assistant Foreign Minister Leaves for ICO Sessions

JN170834 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Assistant Foreign Minister 'Isam al-Na'ib left for Sanaa this morning, heading a Syrian delegation to the meetings of the 15th session of the Islamic Conference foreign ministers which will begin its work in the Yemeni capital on Tuesday.

Defense Minister Denies Resignation Reports

GF171931 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 16 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] Syrian Defense Minister Brigadier Mustafa Talas has stressed that he will continue to carry out his party and political duties. In a special statement to AL-QABAS, Brig Talas emphasized that he is still performing his leading political, military, and party duties. He said that he will continue to serve his country as deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, as well as play his role as a member of the regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Brig Talas categorically refuted reports alleging that he has decided to resign from his posts, and quit his ideological and publication activities. He said: These reports are fabricated and totally devoid of truth.

He stressed that he will also continue his literary and publication activities.

Bulgaria To Build Two Dams in Al-Hasakah Province

JN171354 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Damascus — The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. At the beginning of the meeting, Dr al-Kasm explained a number of political matters related to Arab and international contacts, and the current developments in the region.

The Council then discussed the topics on its agenda. It endorsed the contract concluded by the Irrigation Ministry and Bulgaria to build the western and eastern dams in Al-Hasakah Province

and the canal linking the two dams within the Al-Khabur project. This project, when complete, will irrigate about 40,000 hectares. When the Al-Khabur project and other projects are finally complete, 80,000 hectares will be irrigated.

TISHRIN On Israel's Nuclear Armament

JN151427 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 15 Dec (SANA) — The newspaper TISHRIN says today that Israel's possession of the means of producing nuclear weapons is no longer a secret to anyone. It has been indicated, directly or indirectly, by more than one Israeli official.

The paper says that Israel's possession of nuclear weapons is confirmed by its refusal since 1968 to sign the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, and its refusal to make the Middle East region free of nuclear weapons, despite the UN General Assembly resolutions since 1974 in this regard.

TISHRIN explains that Israel has not only tried to possess nuclear weapons, but has also tried to prevent the Arab states from building nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes, claiming that it fears the Arab states' possession of nuclear weapons. Israel actually aims at obstructing economic and social development in the Arab states, and at preventing the Arabs from benefiting from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this way, it will remain the only party utilizing this energy both for peaceful purposes and for producing nuclear bombs and threatening Arab cities and oil sources, as the Zionist paper HA'ARETZ said in 1975.

Referring to French Government's agreement to sell two nuclear reactors to Israel during Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to France last week, the paper says that these two reactors will be used to develop the nuclear weapons industry, and that their danger will exceed the danger created in the 50's and 60's when France supplied Israel with conventional weapons.

TISHRIN calls for a clear Arab stand to confront Israel's nuclear armament activities.

AL-BA'TH on U.S.-Israeli 'Blackmail' in Talks

JN160909 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Damascus, 16 Dec (SANA) — Today's issue of AL-BA'TH asserts Syria's absolute rejection of the U.S.-Israeli blackmail being exercised on Lebanon both militarily and politically through the Al-Naqurah negotiations. In an editorial, the paper points out that the U.S. Administration is now working in two directions to implement its hostile scheme: The first is represented in giving Israel a free hand militarily in Lebanon, and the second is represented in the move undertaken by the reactionary Arab axis led by Husayn, 'Arafat, and Mubarak — a move that intersects what Israel is doing in Lebanon.

The paper adds: Syria, which cooperated with all brothers in Lebanon to topple the 17 May agreement, rejects the exposed Israeli-U.S. blackmail. It will not allow anyone under any cir-

circumstances whatsoever to impinge on the unity of the Lebanese territory and people.

Concluding, *AL-BATH* says: Israel and Washington see in the current Arab situation their chance to achieve what they failed to achieve during and after the Israeli invasion. However, Washington, Tel Aviv, and the reactionary axis are making a fatal mistake if they imagine that they can fulfill any of their dreams, because they will be faced by an impenetrable wall on which all their dreams will founder.

AL-BATH on Palestinian Decisionmaking

JN171523 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. We have chosen excerpts from the comment written by Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party member 'Abd al-Hafiz Nu'man and published in the *AL-BATH* newspaper under the headline "Legitimacy Between Practice and Allegation". The comment says: Recognizing the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people is a matter necessitated by the nature of the Palestinian struggle and the current political equations in the Arab situation. This recognition is realistic and harmonious with current requirements. For our part, we approve it. We admit that the course imposed on us by these political equations leaves us no option but liberation and revolution to regain the usurped territory. All of the Arab masses' progressive groups, from the ocean to the Gulf, agree on this fact. It is only through this approach that the PLO acquires its character as the sole, legitimate organization in the survival battle against the Zionist-imperialist aggression on Arab territory. Therefore, dealing with the legitimate representation of the Palestinian Arab people is essentially based on how far or near this or that Palestinian faction is to the revolutionary method as the principal option in the liberation process.

AL-BATH says: It is well-known that talk about the legitimacy and dependence of Palestinian decisionmaking is only

directed against Syria, especially when a U.S. or European initiative is looming on the horizon. In such a case, there is more bemoaning for the independent Palestinian decisionmaking. It is also well-known that 'Arafat and his clique aim to empty the progressive Syrian stand of its pan-Arab Palestinian content and to turn it into a mere regional Syrian stand. Then, talk of the pan-Arab cause would be outside Syrian concern, and consequently the Palestinian question would become like any other international issue to Syria.

The comment concludes: It is poor logic indeed for 'Arafat to try to bypass the mighty role which the Arab struggle forces have played, and are playing, under Syria's leadership, in stressing the Palestinian revolution's identity. No matter what 'Arafat and other leaders of capitulation do, they will not be able to cancel the rights either of those who fell, or of those getting ready to sacrifice their lives to exercise their right to defend Palestinian decisionmaking and its revolutionism.

Briefs

New Indonesian Ambassador — At noon today Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Chalid Mawardi, the new Indonesian ambassador in Damascus, and received a copy of his credentials. [Text][*Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic* 1115 GMT 14 Dec 84 JN]

Rio De Janeiro, Damascus Twin Cities — The Rio De Janeiro State Council has adopted a unanimous decision declaring the city of Rio De Janeiro as the twin city of Damascus, in appreciation of Syria's role under President Hafiz al-Asad. The council authorized its chairman to hold talks with the competent sides in Damascus to conclude an agreement which will include cooperation in the cultural, social, information, and tourist fields, as well as the annual celebration of a Damascus and Rio De Janeiro day. [Excerpts][*Damascus Television Service in Arabic* 1730 GMT 15 Dec 84 JN]

SHAS Officially Resigns; No Solution in Sight

TA180759 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0752 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] SHAS has resigned from the government. At this very moment the resignation of Minister Peretz is taking effect, and there is no solution at present. For the time being, SHAS is outside the government.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that Labor and Likud ministers are holding separate consultations in the prime minister's office.

The Labor ministers decided to tell Peres not to renege on the commitments made to the National Religious Party on the issue of the Religious Affairs portfolio.

Shamir: Time Has Run Out

TA180904 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0838 GMT Dec 84

[Text] The Likud ministers are now hurling sharp accusations at the Alignment for not doing enough to prevent the resignation of SHAS from the government. We return to our correspondent Ilana Dayan, who is at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem:

Is there indeed a coalition crisis, or are we on the eve of a power play, as one Alignment official termed it? By the way, the Alignment is trying to downplay the story, calling it a tempest in a teapot, a marginal issue, a crisis which will be solved, a power play from which someone will eventually emerge victorious.

The Likud ministers, contrary to this, hurl sharp accusations, saying that the Alignment has not done enough to solve the crisis. Following the end of the session, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the Likud has done everything to solve the crisis:

[Begin recording][Shamir] We made far-reaching suggestions to the Alignment in order to solve the crisis. We suggested that the National Religious Party [NRP] be allowed to choose between the Interior and the Religious Affairs portfolios, as they had requested, and that only the issue of the budgets allocated to the religious councils be taken from them.

Now the Alignment has to choose and decide. I think that the Alignment made no effort to solve the crisis.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think the Likud might leave the government?

[Shamir] We will hold a consultation tomorrow, when all the Likud ministers will be in Israel, and we will decide then. I think that the situation is extremely serious.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr Vice Prime Minister, how much time are you giving this issue?

[Shamir] The time has run out, the time has run out. [end recording]

Peres: Seek To Preserve Unity

TA180933 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says he will not impose a solution. However, he will continue in his efforts to preserve the national unity government despite the situation created this morning in relations between the Alignment and the Likud, due to the SHAS affair. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer talks with the prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Schiffer] Mr Prime Minister, there is an atmosphere of crisis in relations between the Likud and the Alignment on the issue of portfolio distribution between the National Religious Party and SHAS. Are we indeed in the midst of a coalition crisis?

[Peres] Even if the resignation of Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz has taken effect, I do not regard it as the end of the matter. I think that today it is still possible to search for a solution to the conflict between the two religious parties, both of which have arguments in support of their stands. I have to add that about 1 month ago it seemed impossible to reach a distribution of the two portfolios even in principle. Today we are actually in a situation in which we have an agreement to distribute the two portfolios, and the character of the extended Religious Affairs portfolio has been decided on, as well as the character of the Interior Ministry. There is actually only one controversial issue: the allocation of budgets to the religious councils. I believe that had we had an additional 2 hours, this would have been solved as well.

[Schiffer] The Likud leaders rejected this demand for an additional 24 hours, and they now see themselves on their way out of the coalition, out of the national unity government. What do you intend to do now?

[Peres] This morning I suggested to the Likud members that we not distribute the portfolios, and that the two parties exert an effort for another week. We have worked so long; let us work another week until the solution is found. Look, the truth is that — with all due respect to the issue on the agenda — we have an economic delegation in the United States which is about to discuss aid for next year; we are in the middle of negotiations in Al-Naqurah; and we have to decide about the continuation of the package deal. I am sure that the Likud members feel, as we do, that the central national issues on the agenda require that we all make a supreme effort to overcome the present crisis. I, for my part, did a unique thing. I went to the Council of Torah Scholars and I spoke with them. When I left the meeting I actually possessed a promise that we will be given the 10 days necessary to overcome the only controversial issue. I regret that this did not happen, but it is not the end of the world.

[Schiffer] Are you personally ready to act today for the formulation of a narrow-based government to be headed by you?

[Peres] I believe that we should continue with the national unity government. I think that neither the Likud nor the Alignment have the right to push aside all the serious and burning issues which the country, the economy, and the citizens face, and to start with a new political game. [end recording]

Peres To Visit Romania at Ceausescu Invitation*TA161100 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 Dec 84 p 12*

[Report by political correspondent Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will apparently visit Romania in March, at the invitation of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Labor Party Secretary Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am visited Romania a few weeks ago, and brought Peres the invitation. Contacts between the two countries to set a date for the visit are currently under way.

It looks like only after the visit to Romania will the prime minister accept the Italian Government's invitation to visit Italy — but at a later date.

Shamir Reports on Visits to Venezuela, Panama*TA171515 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1440 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 17 Dec (ITIM) — Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir began his remarks by reporting on his visits to Venezuela and Panama, the first state visits ever to be paid by an Israeli foreign minister to these two countries. Shamir left Panama and Venezuela with important agreements reflecting the desire of these two countries to strengthen relations with Israel, particularly in agriculture and technology, including joint projects which would open a new channel for Israeli exports.

Earlier, Mr Shamir had visited New York where he conferred with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The two men were awarded honorary degrees by Yeshiva University, and Mr Shamir seized the occasion to hold a discussion with Mr Shultz.

Replying to a question, the foreign minister said it would not be easy to get more aid from the United States, a country which has done a great deal for us. Discussions are currently under way on the form and scope of U.S. aid, and Shamir expressed the hope that they would yield good results.

Asked whether U.S. millionaire Armand Hammer had succeeded in his efforts to promote the resumption of relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, the foreign minister said that he had received an initial report on Mr Hammer's talks in Moscow and something may be published on this issue within the next few days.

Answering yet another question, Mr Shamir noted that the sale of Israeli weapons to Panama and Venezuela had not been raised at all during his visit.

Mr Shamir was greeted by Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo, and spent some time with him and other senior officials who updated him on the situation before he proceeded to answer correspondents' questions. Mr Shamir returned to Israel following a 10-day absence.

Rabin Briefs Murphy on Security Policies*TA171633 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Eldad Beck report]

[Text] In his meetings in Amman, Cairo, and Jeddah, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Richard Murphy heard clear statements of support for the process aimed at achieving a settlement in Lebanon.

It should be noted, however, that except for the Saudis, neither Jordan nor Egypt has any ability to influence Damascus' policy, so this support has no practical value.

Incidentally, at the beginning of the meeting which was also attended by Chief of Staff Moshe Levi, Coordinator of Activities in Lebanon Uri Lubrani, and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Samuel Lewis, Mr Rabin expressed an interest in U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, whose name has been raised as a candidate to replace Lewis. Pickering, as Lewis emphasized in his answers to Rabin's questions, served as ambassador to Jordan about 9 years ago.

Murphy, who included Saudi Arabia in his shuttle trip for the second time since he resumed his mission in the region, asked the Kingdom, which has some influence in Damascus, to help pressure President al-Asad to soften his position on UNIFIL's deployment north of the Al-Litani River, the main bone of contention preventing progress in the Al-Naqrurah talks. It seems that to date even Saudi officials are finding it difficult to influence Damascus into softening the absolute "no" expressed to Murphy during his last visit there, about a week ago.

The defense minister again explained Israel's ideas on security arrangements for the future, in preparation for Murphy's departure for another round of talks in Beirut and Damascus. Minister Rabin emphasized the role that Israel wants UNIFIL to play, and informed the U.S. envoy that no breakthrough has been achieved in the Al-Naqrurah talks to date, not even in today's meeting, on the issue of UNIFIL's deployment in Region A, between the Al-Litani and Al-Awwali rivers. The two discussed possibilities for overcoming the disagreements.

On this issue, Defense Ministry officials mentioned that in the past Minister Rabin had expressed his opinion that Israel would reassess its positions at the end of the current round of Israeli-Lebanese talks; this is after 7 weeks of negotiations, when the negotiating parties recess after next Thursday's session for 2 weeks until the Christian New Year. The reassessment, so the officials stressed, will be based on the information Israel now has.

To repeat, Murphy is going to Beirut and later to Damascus. It is not clear whether he will return to Israel before he concludes his present shuttle trip in order to brief Jerusalem on his contacts or whether he will pass on his impressions by different means.

In any event, he will return to Washington for the Christmas holiday, at the beginning of next week, and as matters stand today this will be without any achievement or progress.

Arabic Paper Examines Murphy's Mideast Tour*JN172014 Jerusalem AL-MITHAQ in Arabic 10 Dec 84 p 1*

[Editorial: "Murphy's Tour?"]

[Text] Anyone observing the recent successive political events and developments in our Arab region as well as what has happened in the U.S. arena can clearly analyze the aims and dimensions of the current tour of the region by Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. This tour follows the divisive Amman PNC session as well as the intensive consultations and contacts between the Palestinian right wing and the Arab reactionaries who are totally linked to the U.S. wheel.

Experience has taught us that the U.S. and European envoys' tours of the region are only the imperialist camp's introduction to the implementation of a new onslaught, regardless of whether this onslaught is political, military, or both.

Although Murphy's tour falls within the general framework of a U.S. attempt to get some gains for Israel from the Al-Naqrurah military negotiations with Lebanon — an attempt based on attempts to get out of the Lebanese dilemma by saving face — Murphy's tour is primarily aimed at paving the way for the next stage of U.S. "solutions" in the region. This is especially the case since the links that will participate in these solutions have been joined — particularly the Palestinian right-wing link, which was made by "arranging" the Palestinian home in accordance with the requirements of the coming stage and at the insinuation of the Arab reactionaries and the United States.

During his tour, Murphy will concentrate on coordinating and distributing roles among the Arab reactionaries, headed by the Egyptian Camp David regime and the Palestinian right wing, as well as on arranging cards and setting the scene for the U.S. onslaught that is expected to begin in fact early next year.

Murphy's current tour is closely linked to the moves undertaken by the European countries, headed by France, and by the Palestinian right wing and Arab reactionaries.

We believe that our people's masses, which managed to topple all the plots concocted against them, can foil the coming U.S.-led onslaught, in which the Egyptian regime will have a prominent role.

Rabin Tells U.S. Senators Defense Cut Risky*TA180828 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Dec 84 p 2*

[Text] The Defence Ministry is ready to cut \$500 million from its budget next year, and this will mean increasing the risks for Israel, Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told visiting U.S. Senators Robert Kasten and Daniel Inouye yesterday.

Rabin told the senators, who are here to study Israel's aid requests, that this year's defence budget is already the lowest in 10 years.

He also told them that the political situation in the Middle East is liable to change quickly and Israel must be prepared for all eventualities.

'Arafat Said To Agree to UN Resolution 242*TA180526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Dec 84*

[Text] One of the leading Jewish activists in New York has learned that Yasir 'Arafat told the Jordanian king that he is willing to open negotiations on the basis of UN Resolution 242. Our correspondent in the United States, Razi Barqay, reports that this information was passed on last week to the Jewish activist by a Jordanian minister who is a close associate of Husayn; its content was then brought to the attention of the Israeli Government.

Israeli officials in Washington confirmed the content of the message. They emphasized, however, that this is indirect information which must be regarded with caution. According to them, Jordan and Egypt will try to moderate their positions in the upcoming weeks, on the eve of several events in Washington: the visit of President Mubarak, and an administration debate on economic aid to Egypt and the sale of weapons to Jordan.

Moda'i on CPI; Views Package Deal Successor*TA141317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1205 GMT 14 Dec 84*

[Telephone interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by moderator Avner Tavori upon release of Price Index]

[Tavori] We have on the phone Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i. Good day to you, sir.

[Moda'i] Good day to you, too.

[Tavori] Could we have your first reaction to the Consumer Price Index [CPI] increase of 19.5 percent? Is that high or reasonable?

[Moda'i] The increase in the Consumer Price Index is, in any case, below 20 percent, which was the goal we had set for ourselves before we implemented the package deal. We had actually hoped that it would be somewhat less, but this is primarily a result of the large money printing which, to my regret, took place last month, mainly because the cuts in the state budget were not implemented. On the other hand, I must say that there are at least two positive aspects. First, the fact that the increase in the index is higher than it would have been had money not been printed may mean that there is perhaps less latent inflation. However, the best news is that despite the 19.5 percent, the effect on next month will be only 2.5 percent. Therefore, today I can say with certainty that the Consumer Price Index for December, which will be released on 15 January, will be below 10 percent. If that is the case, I believe that the public, the government, and the partners in the package deal will have proved that with the cooperation of the public and of all factors, it is possible to score genuine economic achievements.

[Tavori] Mr Finance Minister, thank you very much.

[Moda'i] I thank you.

Histadrut, Manufacturers Comment

TA141425 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] The Histadrut secretary general believes that next month's index will show a substantial drop in the rate of inflation. Yisra'el Qeysar believes that the package deal has justified the hopes pinned on it, and that it is necessary to begin discussing another package deal. He believes it will be necessary to amend the prices of subsidized goods somewhat, but he strongly objects to any suggestion of a unilateral price hike outside the framework of a comprehensive plan.

The industrialists, too, believe that as far as lowering prices, the package deal has been successful. The president of the Manufacturers Association, Eli Hurvitz, believes that future indexes will be lower. Regarding an extension of the package deal for a second term, he said it would be necessary to do so in a framework different than the present one.

Moda'i: No Dollarization

TA180744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0505 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Interview with Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i by morning newsreel moderator Shalom Qital — live over the telephone]

[Excerpt][Qital] Mr Finance Minister, the feeling at least among the public — maybe it's your job to dispel this feeling — is that it is still not clear how to continue after the package deal. It is due to expire in 6 weeks, and we still have an ailing economy. Is this correct?

[Moda'i] True. Certainly nobody expected the package deal to heal our ailing economy. However, everybody expected, and rightly so, that during the package deal we would take steps which would later help us not to depart from it — for after all we did not have to enter into it to begin with — but to carry out the steps for healing the economy; first and foremost, cutting the government budget and private consumption. We have begun this task, and we are obviously racing against time. I hope that we will overcome the difficulties.

[Qital] When I hear that at this hour of the morning the prime minister and other top ministers are busy with the SHAS issue, I ask myself whether they all give enough thought to the issue of cuts in the government budget, or whether they are busier with other issues?

[Moda'i] A political structure is unavoidable, and it is impossible to operate a government without preserving its integrity. At the same time, however, I want to promise you that there is at least one minister who dedicates all his time — his days and his nights — to this issue, and almost exclusively to this issue.

[Qital] However, do you receive cooperation?

[Moda'i] I receive cooperation, though not enough for my taste, and certainly not enough in proportion to the economic needs. However, this is the nature of politics. Its course is not necessarily identical with that of economic requirements.

[Qital] Mr Moda'i, today, 6 weeks before we finish this chapter of the package deal, to what extent can you fill us in when I ask you: Where are we heading? To another package deal on 1 February, or to the magic word of dollarization?

[Moda'i] What I can say with complete certainty is that we are not going to have dollarization or anything similar to it. I hope that we will continue with the national consensus on the treatment of our economic ills. The shape which this national consensus will take obviously depends upon the agreement of the various factors responsible for the economy. We in the Treasury have a complete picture about the way in which we want to proceed, and the prime minister has been informed of this.

Warns of Economic Collapse

TA181235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The finance minister has declared he does not intend to resign, although some people may want to see him do so. In a symposium in Jerusalem, Minister Moda'i said that in the race against time in the economic sphere, the national unity government is not better than any narrow government in the past. In previous governments, the small parties dictated conditions, while in the national unity government the large parties try to dictate conditions, and ministers who oppose a cut in their budget win support from dozens of Knesset members. The finance minister foresees an economic collapse within a few months if the large state budget is not cut.

Comprehensive Plan Urged

TA160911 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0430 GMT 16 Dec 84

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] HA'ARETZ says that despite an indirect price freeze, which seems to have been quite well observed in November, the currency lost one-fifth of its value in the course of a single month. It should be stressed again that curbing inflation, even temporarily, is impossible through a mere administrative freeze on prices. The economic control systems are not functioning, the budget is shaky from the point of view of both income and expenses, and the monetary system has been proven to be too weak to stabilize the economy. Under these circumstances, the package deal and similar measures cannot be more than a short break in the inflationary race. Those who want economic recovery must restore the national control systems — primarily the budget — to enable them to function properly.

DAVAR writes that logic and not only decency call for stability in prices, since the bouncing back and forth between different

techniques has been ineffective. Raising the prices of all basic commodities as well as fuel — which affects the price of everything — will increase anxiety among the public before the government has come up with an economic program. It should be noted, with surprise and regret, that a great deal of uneasiness about the extensive arguments over budget cuts has so far plagued the public. The cuts, however, have not yet been effected; even when they are, they still do not constitute an economic plan. The tendency toward increasing exports in 1984 and the possibility of curbing prices if the package deal is observed are encouraging. However, without an economic plan — a plan which to date does not seem to be in the offing — any individual measure is merely a temporary respite.

'AL HAMISHMAR says that two reduced cost-of-living increments, the one given 2 weeks ago and the one to be given in 2 weeks, will not compensate workers for the deep 20-percent erosion in the real purchasing power of their November wages. Contrary to the proclaimed expression of self-content emanating from the houses of the three parties to the package deal, the paper writes, we believe that the incredibly high November Consumer Price Index clearly proves that the administrative price freeze which followed the administrative price increases did not solve a thing. It is even to be feared that the soothing psychological effect will not last long. The task is still ahead of us and we better rush to do it rather than entertain self-produced illusions.

HATZOFÉ writes that the negotiations among the government, the Histadrut and the employers must continue, with the aim of extending the package deal period beyond January. A study of the November CPI indicates that the freeze agreement has proven itself to date, but the statistical data are less important than the feeling of the public, which must realize that the stabilization of the economy is done in its own interest, although it is required to make concessions in the short term. One should then aim at continuing the package deal beyond the 3-month period, while consolidating a comprehensive recovery program which will be shared by all key economic elements.

THE JERUSALEM POST writes that the first 100 days of the national unity government — the time limit during which the public had to be presented with a consistent economic plan — have already elapsed. If a definite economic plan is not determined within days rather than weeks, the conclusion of the present package deal may mark a renewal of the inflation fever and the attendant race for foreign currency.

Further Press Comment

TA160918 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 16 Dec 84

[From the review of midday press editorials]

[Text] **MA'ARIV** writes that an absolutely necessary lesson we should draw from last month's Consumer Price Index is that it is not at all certain that the slow-down in several economic branches has also curtailed increasing prices. This conclusion and others reinforce the demand that all parties to the package deal should even now agree on continuing the deal, but the continuation should be more daring, comprehensive and binding.

Peres Sends 'Personal Message' to Spain's Gonzalez

TA161045 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Dec 84 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has transmitted a personal message to Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, asking him again to establish diplomatic relations with Israel immediately. The message was transmitted through Knesset Member [MK] Mikha Harish, who met Gonzalez late last week.

MK Harish represented the Labor Party at the annual meeting of the Spanish Socialist Party. Harish and Gonzalez have known each other since 1967, when Harish participated in a clandestine underground meeting of the Spanish party, which was still outlawed.

At the time, Felipe Gonzalez promised to establish diplomatic ties with Israel, when the Labor Party reaches power.

European Parliament Action Urged on Ties With Spain

TA161319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Knesset speaker has demanded that the European Parliament demand that Spain establish diplomatic ties with Israel as a precondition for its joining the EEC. Shlomo Hilel told members of the European Parliament delegation that the Parliament must defend Israel's interests, and added that in his opinion presenting this condition will furthermore make it easier for Spain to get out from under the Arab countries' blackmail. The delegation members arrived in Israel last night.

Peres Suggests EEC as Model for Political Process

TA171332 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1321 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that the political process in the Middle East could start from an economic angle, following the example of the EEC. Mr Peres was speaking with representatives of the European Parliament who are currently in Israel to hold their annual meeting with the Knesset. This is reported by our correspondent Gid'on Remez.

Peres added that Israel is also willing to open a serious dialogue with Jordan about the Palestinian problem. According to him, Europe could play a role in bringing Israel closer to an open and direct dialogue, without any preconditions, with Arab leaders.

Belgian Minister Concludes Visit, Comments

TA161619 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1559 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 16 Dec (ITIM) — Belgian Secretary of State of Cooperation for Development Francois-Xavier de Donnea this afternoon ended a 4-day visit to Israel by expressing the opinion that there is room for exchanging know-how and information between the two countries in the field of rural development in developing countries.

Speaking with the ITIM correspondent at Ben-Gurion Airport, Mr de Donnea said that Belgium has vast experience with development enterprises in Central Africa, which is a rainy and forested area, while Israel has experience in developing arid zones. He noted that Belgium is going to reorganize the technological development services with other countries and that his visit to Israel was designed to examine closely the work Israel has been doing in this field. However, he said that it was still premature to talk about joint projects between the two countries.

The visitor toured rural and communal research and instruction institutes, the Vulcani Institute, the Center for Settlement Research in Rehovot, kibbutzim and moshavim, and conferred with Deputy Foreign Minister Roni Milo and senior Foreign Ministry officials dealing with international cooperation.

Swaziland's Agriculture Minister Departs

TA170531 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2130 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 16 Dec (ITIM) — Swaziland's agriculture and cooperatives minister, Sipho Hezekiel Mamba, wound up his 4-day visit to Israel this evening. He discussed joint projects with Israel for his country.

During his visit here, Mr Mamba met with Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin and with top Agriculture Ministry Officials, and toured agricultural and communal research and development institutions.

"There are many areas in which we can expand cooperation," he told ITIM upon leaving the country.

Former French Prime Minister Ends Visit

TA160924 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0815 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 16 Dec (ITIM) — Former French Prime Minister Jacques Chaban-Delmas this morning ended a 4-day visit to Israel, saying he welcomes the improvement in Israeli-French relations, and expressing his happiness that they are returning to what they should always be.

Chaban-Delmas, who is presently the mayor of Bordeaux, visited Israel as the guest of the town of Ashdod and the Jewish National Fund, and met with the prime minister and senior ministers. He was especially impressed with the enormous development which has taken place in Israel since he last visited in 1977. This is an impressive development; I did not recognize the entrance to Jerusalem when I traveled to your capital and was very impressed, he said. Foreign Ministry representatives and the French ambassador to Israel saw him off at the airport.

Cuban Delegation Arrives, Castro's Son Not Included

TA172053 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2040 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 17 Dec (ITIM) — Jorge Rodriguez, a young Cuban Communist, arrived this evening in Israel. When asked whether he really was the son of Cuban President Fidel Castro Rodriguez [name as received], he burst out laughing.

Rodriguez arrived together with Manuel Aguilera; they both constitute the official delegation of the Cuban Communist youth to the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Israeli Communist Youth Alliance [ICYA].

Rodriguez and Aguilera arrived from Bucharest where they were issued visas to enter Israel. They were greeted at the airport by Tali Zehavi, a member of the ICYA Secretariat. She explained to the two surprised visitors that all the photographers and correspondents had come to meet them at the airport following reports published in Israel that a member of the delegation called Rodriguez was actually the son of the Cuban president. The misunderstanding stemmed from the fact that Castro's second family name is Rodriguez.

The two noted that good relations exist between the Cuban and Israeli Communist youth movements and that they had come to Israel to hold talks with their comrades and to attend the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Israeli movement.

"I think Castro has a son or a few sons, I am not sure how many," said Rodriguez who boasts a thick moustache but does not resemble the leader of his country at all.

Demonstrations in Lebanon Protest IDF Arrests

TA150714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] This morning there were several demonstrations in Tyre and the Shi'ite villages east of the town protesting against the arrests the IDF made this week in the area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Shi'ite youths blocked roads and set tires on fire. Reinforced IDF and army of southern Lebanon [ASL] forces are in the area but they have not been forced to intervene so far. At dawn an ASL force was attacked with automatic fire in the port of Tyre. Nobody was hurt.

Shi'ite Strike, UNIFIL Incident Analyzed

TA160846 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Hayim Hecht report]

[Text] The IDF carried out detentions in southern Lebanon and Nabih Birri in Beirut was infuriated. As a result, the Amal organization called for a strike; while the southern Lebanese Shi'ites complied, they took steps to ensure that their protest was not carried to the extreme. This is the scenario that has repeated itself four times in recent weeks, with all elements involved playing their respective roles against their will.

The IDF is constantly seeking channels to the hearts of the Shi'ites in southern Lebanon. Mass detentions naturally do not enhance our popularity among this community. However, when the security forces possess information about terrorist cells inside the Shi'ite villages, security considerations take precedence.

The Shi'ites' leader, Nabih Birri, is in fact disconnected from his community members in the south. All he can do in view of the

detentions is to convene correspondents in his Beirut office, level a sharp attack against Israel and give an official Lebanese Government seal to the terrorist acts against the IDF and the army of southern Lebanon. The Amal leaders realize that they are not immune, despite the great influence they enjoy in the south and Israel's attempt to draw them closer to it. When their people are involved in terrorist activities, the IDF acts against them without much ceremony or fanfare. In order to demonstrate their power they can only resort to a strike.

The Shi'ite merchants in Tyre and Al-Nabatiyah as well as the farmers in the villages have to strike or they will find themselves in trouble. The Amal leaders in the villages accept no excuse by strike breakers. However, at the same time, it is clear to the village leaders that it is not worth their while to run into complications with the IDF, and take pains to ensure there are no disturbances. As a result, only a number of tires are set on fire at the entrance to the villages so as fulfill the requirements of the strike, so to speak. This is then a permanent scenario which may well be repeated in the not too distant future.

A French UNIFIL soldier stood at the entrance to the village of Yanuh last Thursday and watched IDF soldiers conducting detentions there. An IDF soldier tried to drive him away but the French soldier continued to watch the IDF operation. An Israeli officer ordered the French soldier to move and an IDF soldier fired nine bullets over the French soldier's head. The French soldier responded by firing four bullets over the Israeli soldier's head. This exchange ended when the French battalion commander ordered his people to clear the area. UNIFIL protested the incident and the IDF will look into it. The IDF soldiers have clear instructions to treat the UNIFIL soldiers with all due respect, a senior officer told me, adding: This incident again proves that integrating UNIFIL into the security arrangements is not simple; when UN soldiers are located in the Al-Awwali region, the IDF may well need to be there too to handle terrorist nests. These confrontations with the UN soldiers may end in a very grave diplomatic incident with a friendly country.

Christians Join Protest

TA171108 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Dec 84 p 6

[Menahem Horowitz report]

[Excerpt] Agitation continued yesterday in the large Shi'ite towns and villages following the wave of detentions conducted in the area over the weekend by the Israeli security forces. More than 30 persons were detained in these actions, and a large quantity of various kinds of weapons was seized. The detainees are suspected of cooperation with hostile elements and of attempted attacks against the IDF and soldiers of the army of southern Lebanon [ASL]. The general strike in the Shi'ite villages east of Tyre continued yesterday, while in Al-Nabatiyah and Tyre business was conducted as usual.

Sunni and Druze villages also participated in the strike which was held over the weekend, as well as Christian villages which are known to be quiet and cooperative. The Christian leaders said that the strike and prayers held in the monasteries were meant to protest the use of force and the deaths of two residents who

were killed by IDF fire in the village of Tura, east of Tyre. The IDF and ASL have brought more forces into the area. However, they tried to avoid contact with the agitated residents.

Demonstrations for Lebanon Withdrawal Reported

TA160738 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Demonstrations were held last night in Tel Aviv, Beer-sheba and Herzliya, calling for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon. The demonstrations were organized by several youth movements and the Parents Against Silence organization. Several Knesset members took part in the demonstrations.

Pro-Israeli Shi'ite Slain in Downtown Tyre

TA161713 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] (Haydar Dayaq), a Lebanese Shi'ite who publicly stated his support for Israel, was murdered in downtown Tyre. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that automatic weapons fire was aimed at the man from a passing car and he was killed on the spot. Our correspondent notes that (Dayaq) received various threats after he stated his support for Israel on an Israeli Television program.

An RPG was fired at a patrol of the army of southern Lebanon in the center of Sidon this afternoon. There were no casualties.

IDF Soldier Killed in Lebanon Clash 16 Dec

TA170536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0531 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] An IDF soldier was killed last night in a clash with terrorists approximately 8 km north of Al-Nabatiyah in Lebanon. The IDF spokesman reports that an IDF patrol spotted a terrorist squad that was trying to plant a bomb by the shoulder of the road. During the exchanges of fire, our soldier was killed. The IDF is continuing to search the area.

IDF Imposes Curfew

TA170914 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The name of the IDF soldier who was killed last night in a clash with terrorists north of Al-Nabatiyah is Corporal Eytan Avrahami, aged 19, of Qazrin. A special announcement will be made on the time of the funeral. The IDF has imposed a curfew on two southern Lebanese villages in the area where the soldier was killed, which is in the vicinity of Al-Duwayr and Jibshit. Searches there are continuing. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that an explosive charge weighing 4 kg, as well as 2 kg of nails were found there. The soldier was killed in an exchange of fire after an IDF patrol spotted a terrorist squad that tried to plant a bomb at the side of the road.

IDF Warns Druze, Christians in Al-Kharrub Region
TA171902 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1855 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Southern Lebanon, 17 Dec (ITIM) — The battles between Druze and Christians in the Al-Kharrub region resumed this afternoon.

The two sides are using heavy weapons, including tanks and cannons. The ITIM correspondent in the north has learned that one of the shells fell near an IDF position, at the meeting point of the Al-Awwali River and the coastal road.

The IDF has warned the sides not to increase the firing. "We will not put up with shells falling near IDF positions," military sources in southern Lebanon said.

Moderate Shi'ites Decrease Cooperation With IDF
TA180538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] There is a crisis between Israel and the moderate Shi'ite leadership in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that following the assassination of 12 local leaders who cooperated with the IDF, a large decrease was registered in the recruitment of Shi'ites to the ASL. Their leaders told Israel that they are forced to cease cooperating with Israel because it does not protect those who help it. The IDF liaison unit in Lebanon has said in reaction that the IDF is taking steps to protect those who help Israel. The liaison unit will continue to cultivate the relations with the Shi'ite population, because the Shi'ites are a central factor in southern Lebanon.

2 UNIFIL Soldiers Held for Transporting TNT
TA181100 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Dec 84 p 1

[Text] An officer and a private of the Finnish UNIFIL contingent who were on their way to a sports day in Tiberias, were detained on 16 December near the Good Fence after three sticks of dynamite were found in their car. The two men have denied any connection with the discovery.

At 0830 on 16 December, a land rover of the Finnish UNIFIL contingent arrived at the (Palma) crossing near Metulla from Lebanon. The car was driven by a lieutenant who is the sports officer of the contingent. Next to him was a UNIFIL private. During a routine inspection, three sticks of dynamite were found underneath the back seat of the car. An IDF bomb disposal expert was summoned, and from the examination it emerged that the sticks, which were made in France, contained TNT.

The officer and the private were detained for questioning. They denied having anything to do with the matter and said they were on their way to organize a UN sports day in Tiberias. The officer said that he took his car keys in the morning and went on his way without knowing that there were explosives in the car. The IDF authorities detained the two men and they are now being questioned by the security forces.

Peres Advocates Equal Treatment for Arab Towns
TA151933 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says the government will try to bring about equality in the municipal services of Arab towns and Jewish towns. Peres met yesterday with officials of Arab municipalities and Arab public figures who are Labor Party members. In this meeting, Mr Peres said that in the next few weeks we can expect development plans for Arab settlements to be quickly prepared.

Rabbi Levinger Allowed To Continue Vigil
TA162046 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Rabin has so far rejected recommendations by several sources in the defense establishment to stop Rabbi Levinger from demonstrating at the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. Levinger's demonstration has been going on for almost 7 weeks now. Warnings have recently been received that hostile circles may attack him, and that this may cause a deterioration in safety in that area.

Military Government Confiscates Land Near Ramallah
TA161102 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Dec 84 p 1

[Report by the West Bank correspondent]

[Text] Inhabitants of the village of Rantis north of Ramallah said yesterday that Military Government personnel have informed them of the expropriation of 1,380 dunams of their land (mostly rural). They said that approximately 20 families from their village use this land to sustain themselves, and that they have no intention of giving it up.

The Military Government people told the mukhtar of the village that the decision could be appealed within 1 month. A meeting between the landowners and the Ramallah military governor will take place today. The land is probably being expropriated for the purpose of paving a road from 'Ofra to Hallamish west of Ramallah.

The spokesperson for the Judea and Samaria Civilian Administration said last night that this is evidently a case where the land is being proclaimed state-owned. She added that these areas are either not cultivated, or are not tillable.

Hebron Hospital To Be Built With Saudi Financing
TA171100 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Dec 84 pp 1, 11

[Avino'am Bar-Yosef report]

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judea and Samaria yesterday approved in principle the building of a hospital in Hebron with Saudi financing. The approval was given in accordance with the administration's policy of encouraging the improvement of services to the population and raising their standard of living.

Colonel Freddy Zakh, the assistant head of the Civilian Administration, yesterday met on this issue with the management of the "Patient's Friends" society, headed by Dr Hafiz 'Abd al-Nabi al-Natshah, which is working for the establishment of the medical institute.

In the meeting, Col Zakh emphasized that approval is dependent upon the issue of a building permit from the Supreme Planning Council in Judea and Samaria, and upon meeting the professional requirements to be determined by the health authorities in the Civilian Administration.

The head of the Civilian Administration yesterday visited the Beilinson hospital in Petah Tiqva, where 10 specialist physicians from Judea and Samaria are undergoing an anesthesiology course. The course, which will last 2 years, costs \$0.5 million, and is jointly financed by international medical institutions and the Civilian Administration.

Raymonda al-Tawil Allowed To Visit France

TA171123 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Dec 84 p 3

[Report by correspondent in the West Bank Dani Litani]

[Text] The journalist Raymonda al-Tawil, who heads the East Jerusalem PALESTINE PRESS AGENCY, will visit France in the near future, after receiving approval from Israeli security officials.

Security sources said yesterday that Al-Tawil's request to visit her daughters in France has been approved by security officials and has also been brought to the attention of the prime minister's office, which offered no objections.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned that various French officials have recently exerted pressure on the prime minister's office to allow Raymonda al-Tawil to leave Israel.

Raymonda al-Tawil's upcoming visit to France will in effect put an end to the intention of shutting down the PALESTINE PRESS AGENCY in East Jerusalem, even though the affair has not been officially closed. The very fact that Al-Tawil has been given approval to travel abroad proves that various security officials have "shrugged their shoulders" on the issue of shutting down the office, as a result of the active involvement of the prime minister's office in the issue.

16 Dec Incidents in West Bank Reported

TA170845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] An Egged bus was stoned and its windshield smashed near the Al-'Amarah refugee camp near Ramallah. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an inhabitant of the village of Al-Khidr near Bethlehem complained at the police station that unidentified people last night set his tractor on fire and tried to break into his home. He claimed that they were skullcap-donned Jews. Security establishment sources have told our correspondent that this is apparently a case of arson due to

the man's support for Jordan and King Husayn. Our correspondent points out that last month there were many arson cases involving the property of Jordan supporters.

3 People Injured in Tel Aviv Bus Explosion

TA171724 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1708 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Our correspondent Hagay Hitron has just returned from the site of the explosion on Hahashmonaiim Street in Tel Aviv. Here is his report:

[Hitron] A bus on route No 63, with almost all its windows shattered, is currently parked near its regular stop on Hahash mona'im Street, close to the wall of the wholesale vegetable market. A hand grenade was thrown at the bus from inside the market a short time ago, according to Tel Aviv District Police Assistant Commander David Kraus.

[Begin Recording][Kraus] All we know now is that a grenade was thrown at the bus stop as the bus was pulling up. The grenade was thrown from behind the wall of the market. Eyewitnesses say that one or more persons were seen fleeing from the market after the grenade exploded. We know that three injured people were taken to Hadassah Hospital, apparently suffering from shock. The police organized very swiftly, following the attack.

[Hitron] Approximately when did the explosion take place?

[Kraus] The explosion took place about 15 minutes ago. Searches are now under way inside the market. The market has been closed off and all those who were inside are being checked. At this point the investigation has only started.

[Hitron] The bus in question travels route No 63 to Giv'atayim.

[Kraus] The bus was on its regular route. It pulled up to the bus station, and then a grenade was thrown at it from behind the wall. [end recording]

Islamic Extremism Surfaces Among Israeli Arabs

TA171848 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1715 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Nazareth, 17 Dec (ITIM) — A revival of Islamic extremism has been noticeable lately in minority villages in northern Israel.

The ITIM correspondent reports that this is expressed in incitement by imams in Friday sermons in the mosques, in more youths joining Islamic extremist circles and in the hostility shown by these circles to the authorities.

One of the key motives of the Islamic extremist circles concerns the release of Islamic waqf funds which are now held by the state.

In the last meeting of the Supreme Muslim Council held in Shefar'am last Friday the participants agreed that a general meeting of all Israeli Muslims should be held at the beginning of next year in order to initiate actions to bring about the release of

the assets held by the government. Next year's meeting is also intended to expand the struggle for favorable public opinion beyond Israel's borders, by appealing to international elements in the West to aid Israeli Arabs in their fight for the release of the waqf assets.

The speakers at the Shefar'am rally noted that their goal is to receive the assets, whose estimated worth is billions of shekels, and to use them to set up independent educational and cultural institutes for Israeli Arabs, such as a university, a school for the training of clergymen, and social welfare institutes.

The ITIM correspondent notes that police circles handling the Arab sector take a very grave view of the revival of this extremist wave, of the move to set up independent Arab institutes, and of expanding the struggle for this beyond the borders of the state, an act that might further radicalize the Arab man-in-the-street.

5-6 West Bank Settlements To Be Built This Year *TA180834 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE* *in English 17 Dec 84*

[Report by GPO correspondent B. Gordon]

[Text] Minister of Agriculture Aryeh Nehamkin pledged to the Knesset this evening (Monday) [17 December] that the government would "honor all its commitments" outlined in the coalition's policy guidelines, which call for the establishment of 5-6 new settlements in Judaea-Samaria.

Responding to a motion to the agenda (raised by MK [Knesset Member] G. Cohen), Minister Nehamkin rejected the charge that there is a settlement freeze, per se: No settlements are being established at present, he conceded, because "everything is frozen" as far as all current government spending is concerned; but

the government is even at the present time acting to strengthen and develop existing settlements — also as called for in the coalition platform — by working on the problem of providing permanent housing in settlements that still lack such housing.

The minister admitted that one clause of the government guidelines indeed had not been fulfilled: The names of the new settlements have not yet been determined, even though the deadline (one week after the establishment of the government) has passed. But he promised that in the course of the "whole year" in which the government is committed to act, the settlements' locations and building would be discussed and approved.

At the minister's request, the Knesset voted to remove the motion from the Knesset's agenda (some Likud members of the coalition defied discipline and opposed the minister).

Knesset House Committee Votes To Restrict Kahane *TA181009 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0950 GMT 18 Dec 84*

[Text] The Knesset House Committee a short time ago decided to impose limitations on the free travel privileges enjoyed by Meir Kahane as a Knesset Member. The decision was accepted after the Alignment faction decided to support the proposal raised by MK 'Edna Solodar. Our correspondent Ilana Dayan reports that the decision to impose limitations on the rights of MK Kahane was accepted by a majority of 12 committee members, who were opposed by 8 members from the Likud and Tehiya. The decision requires the approval of the Knesset plenum before it goes into effect. Our correspondent notes that if the decision is approved by the Knesset, the police will be able to detain Kahane when he comes to Arab population centers with the intention of inciting the populace.

ALGERIA

GDR's Honecker Begins Official Visit 17 Dec

Interviewed Before Visit

LD161256 Algiers APS in English 1011 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Algiers, 16/12/84 (APS) — On the eve of his official visit in Algeria (from 17 to 19 December) at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, FLN party secretary general, Mr Erich Honecker, secretary general the C.C. of the German Unified Socialist Party (SED) and president of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic made an interview to the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (APS).

Referring to the friendship and solidarity links existing between the two countries and the two peoples, Mr Erich Honecker declared convinced [as received] that talks he will have with President Chadli Bendjedid "will be fruitful to peace, and entente between peoples, then to the immediate interests of the GDR and the Algerian peoples".

Mr Honecker who insisted upon the importance and the significance of the first official visit of a SED secretary general and president of the GDR Higher Council in Algeria on the economic and political plans also recalled the big lines characterizing GDR foreign policy as to the struggle for the safeguard [as received] of peace and security, the research of peaceful solutions to problems existing in Africa, in the Arab world, in Central America as well as in the zones of conflicts, the reorganisation of international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis.

To a question relating to the most important questions to be dealt with President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic, FLN party secretary general, Mr Honecker answered that the primordial question for today's peoples is the question of safeguarding peace. We are convinced that there could not be any fruitful development of peoples without peace. That is still more available in the presence of imperialist powers aspirations to military supremacy, the setting up of ever more powerful nuclear offensive weapons and their implantation on the ground and — as it is envisaged now by these imperialist milieux in the outer space threaten the existence of humanity. The policy carried out by the most aggressive milieux of imperialism affects all the regions of the world, it makes more difficult the research of a peaceful solution to problems existing in austral Africa, the Middle-East and in Central America as well as in other zones of conflicts.

Regarding a question on the relations of cooperation between Algerian and GDR, Mr Erich Honecker said that the 30th anniversary of the launching of the liberation armed struggle that the Algerian people celebrated was also for the GDR citizens a memorable day. The traditional friendship and cooperation are the basis of solid relations embracing a high number of governmental and social activities. The numerous meetings between the leading personalities of our two states as the relations existing between the parties, parliaments and mass organisations show the high political level reached in our relations. The economic relations between GDR and Algeria have also lived a continuous development. These last years, our two states achieved jointly

great-industrial projects which will contribute to the reinforcement of capacities of the Algerian economy.

Honecker Arrives

LD171323 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpts] We begin the newscast with the following report from Houari Boumediene International Airport on the arrival of Erich Honecker, General Secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council:

The presidential aircraft landed at Houari Boumediene International Airport at 1132. President Chadli Bendjedid welcomed Chairman Erich Honecker at the aircraft steps.

Chairman Erich Honecker then shook hands with the welcoming delegation, members of the Political Bureau Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, responsible for the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, Foreign Minister Ahmed-Taleb Ibrahim, Minister of the Interior M'hamed Hadj Yala, Minister of Justice Boualem Baki. The brothers were led by Abdelhamid Brahimi, prime minister and alternate member of the Political Bureau.

Bendjedid, Honecker Begin Talks

LD171425 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The political talks between President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN, and Mr Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State, began this afternoon at Villa [word indistinct]. The chairman of the GDR arrived this morning in Algiers for a 3-day official visit in response to the invitation of the president of the Republic.

GDR Media Coverage

For East Berlin coverage of the visit to Algeria by Erich Honecker, Socialist Unity Party of Germany general secretary and GDR State Council chairman, see the German Democratic Republic section of the 17 December Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

USSR's Admiral Gorshkov Arrives for Talks

PM171134 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 11 Dec 84 p 3

[APS report: "Major General Mostefa Benloulcif Receives Soviet Admiral S.G. Gorshkov"]

[Text] Algiers — Major General Mostefa Benloulcif, chief of staff of the People's National Army, had a meeting yesterday with Admiral S.G. Gorshkov, commander in chief of naval forces and USSR deputy defense minister.

The meeting took place at the Defense Ministry in the presence of General Rachid Benyelles, secretary general of the defense

Ministry; Lieutenant Colonel Abdelmadjid Cherif, commander of the naval forces; and Lieutenant Colonel M'hamed Becheric-hali, director of external relations at the National Defense Ministry.

During the talks the two sides reviewed questions of common interest to the two countries.

Adm S.G. Gorshkov yesterday started an official visit to Algiers, which is to last several days, at the invitation of the National Defense Ministry.

The Soviet delegation was welcomed at Houari Boumediene International Airport by the commander of the Algerian Naval Forces and by several senior Algerian Army officers.

After the welcoming ceremony Adm Gorshkov went to the martyr's sanctuary, where he laid a wreath of flowers to the memory of the revolution's martyrs.

As he left the plane at Houari Boumediene International Airport, Adm Gorshkov was welcomed by Lt Col Abdelmadjid Cherif, commander of the Algerian naval forces, and by the central directors of the National Defense Ministry.

Oil Ministry Scores OPEC Members' Pricing Policy

LD172045 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The Ministry of Energy and Petrochemical Industries has confirmed in a press statement published today that OPEC should have adopted a stance on the importance of the reduction in oil production during the extraordinary meeting which was held recently in Geneva [as heard]. Referring to the various attitudes expressed by light- and heavy-oil producing countries on factors concerning price fluctuations and their effect on the oil market, the statement pointed out that despite the promises made by some member-countries and their optimism over the improvement of conditions in the oil market, the desired results have not yet materialized. This is having a negative effect on the attitudes of member-countries, especially concerning the collapse of oil prices and their defense. The statement also said that the industrialized countries and some oil consumers which are not OPEC members will benefit from this situation because of the non-adherence to the actual implementation of the organization's resolutions by some members, resolutions which continue to call for avoiding the strategic mistake resulting from the decline in revenues by cutting prices instead of production cuts.

OPEC experts today in Geneva began meetings aimed at discussing the latest developments in the oil market. The organization's news agency, reporting the matter, added that the international oil situation will also be discussed by a follow-up committee tomorrow. It is known that OPEC's 72d ministerial conference will open the day after tomorrow. Meanwhile the Kuwaiti oil and finance minister today praised Mexico's positive attitude in support of OPEC's resolutions on production cuts and maintenance of the official price.

LIBYA

Committees Warn U.S. of 'Dire Consequences'

LD172202 Tripoli JANA in English 1430 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tripoli, Rabi Awal 25, December 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — *AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* newspaper published today has commented on the treacherous plans devised by the American Government against the Libyan Arab people, pointing to the words published last week by *NEWSWEEK* magazine concerning the evil thoughts being studied by the Pentagon and the black house specifically and in detail to wage military aggression on Jamahiriya.

The paper said that the information given by *NEWSWEEK* magazine were not the result of mere research by the illustrious writer but are the same plans being devised in the black house confirming that the information is a dangerous indication of the real preparations to invade Jamahiriya, invasion to be launched by the imperialist United States of America who have been sounding the drums of war against Jamahiriya for several years.

The newspaper then reminded its readers of publications by the same magazine, back in July 1981, of the poisonous articles against the Libyan Arab people and the great al-Fatih revolution, full of open incitement against Jamahiriya. This clearly shows Reagan's intentions which he disclosed during his first election campaign and which are summed up in his directing a blow against people's authority in Jamahiriya under the guise of fighting international terrorism, and which he could not implement during the first stage of his presidency for considerations that everyone knows.

The paper then pointed to Reagan's hostile statements made during his re-election for a second term of office in which he said "I am coming this time with three problems I would like to solve once for all and in a radical way: the first is the Middle East problem, the second is that of North Africa which must be settled on and on which order must be imposed and the third is that of the Caribbean, so that America regains its initial level of control on this region."

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR then stressed that the Libyan Arab people were determined to crush any American target closing on its shores, without mercy or hesitation. If the senile of the black house, who is affected by a madness for power, wants to implement his threats we tell him: Come forward with your forces to see the consequences facing you. It could be the opportunity awaited by the Libyan Arab people for a long time to settle accounts with the American crusade enemy and to take revenge for the martyrs of Arabism and for the weak people who have fallen at the hands of American terrorist bullets.

The paper concluded by saying that revolutionary committees are warning the imperialist United States of the dire consequences of their irresponsible actions and draw the attention of the world community and peace loving nations to the evil plans being cooked in Washington against Jamahiriya which will ultimately lead to a third world war, pointing out that any attack on the Libyan Arab people will not be as easy as the mad people

which was certainly done in the interest of the two peoples. It is certain that Tunisia is attached to the construction of a greater Maghreb; in our view there is no greater Maghreb without the participation of all countries of the region — that is Morocco, Libya, Algeria, Mauritania and also Tunisia."

Then, this morning in Paris, at the end of the Cabinet meeting Roland Dumas, the new external relations minister explained France's attitude toward the change in Mauritania. This is the first official reaction.

[Dumas] "We noted that the new head of state Ould Taya is himself a colonel, the sixth military leader in power since the 1978 revolution which chased away President Mohtar Ould Dadda; there is a phenomenon of political instability which deserves special attention. This country is faced with the action of its two big neighbors, Morocco and Algeria, and is seeking both an internal equilibrium and a certain external stability. The president of the republic also recalls that he personally knew the new head of state, who was a former prime minister of Mauritania. Thus we shall follow the developments with particular interest, and thoroughness."

New Government Receives Motions of Support

AB171500 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Motions of support to the CMSN continue to make the headlines in national news following the changes made by the CMSN on 12 December 1984. The Executive Bureau of the Islamic Cultural Association gives its full support to the CMSN, headed by Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state. It affirms its determination to be constantly on its side for the achievement of the noble objectives, particularly the application of the Islamic sharia in all areas connected with the national economic recovery, and the inculcation of sanity into public life.

As for the Commission of Mosques [words indistinct], it declares that it is conscious of the noble principles and objectives of the reorganization undertaken by the CMSN and the patriotic spirit that characterized this corrective and honest step aimed at restoring the credibility of our country both internally and externally in accordance with the goals set on 10 July 1978.

The National Association of Stockbreeders of Mauritania gives its full and unflinching support to the national leadership. Through this support motion, the association is certain that it is expressing the sentiments of all the stockbreeders of the country.

The Standing Committee of the Chambers of Commerce brings its unflinching and full support to the CMSN and to its chairman, Colonel Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya, the head of state. Consequently, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture will spare no efforts to participate in the nation-building effort in accordance with the directives of the CMSN.

The trade union sector is not left out in this move, since all the trade unionists in administration, education, posts and telecommunications, the Sodemec [expansion unknown], and traders

in Nema also expressed their unflinching support for the ideals of the national leadership for the changes made this month. Motions of support of no little importance were also addressed to the CMSN by the inhabitants of Brakna, Trarza, Koueidis, and Nouadhibou.

AFP: New Regime Said To Free 32 Detainees

AB172140 Paris AFP in English 1756 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Nouakchott, Dec 17 (AFP) — Thirty-two people detained under the deposed regime of President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala were freed today, according to an Interior Ministry statement. They included Ahmed Baba Miske, Mauritania's former ambassador to the United Nations, who was arrested in March, and former Fisheries Minister Colonel Slimane Soumare, arrested in December last year.

Mr Miske was also a member of the Polisario Front, the guerrilla organisation fighting Morocco for control of Western Sahara whose claim to the territory is recognised by Mauritania.

President Haydala was toppled in a coup last Wednesday while he was out of the country. The new head of state is Maayouia Sidi Ahmed Ould Taya.

Chief of Staff Attends Military Ceremony

AB171115 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] National Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ould Abdallah yesterday presided over the installation ceremony of the commander of the 2d Military Region, Lieutenant Colonel (Mohamed Sidi Nah Ould Sidi), in Jerad.

Permanent Under Secretary for Presidency Appointed

AB180918 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] A communique from the CMSN chairmanship which reached us yesterday states: Dr (Louleidou) Oueddad has been appointed permanent under secretary to the CMSN chairmanship and head of state, by a decree issued on 17 December 1984.

MOROCCO

French Cooperation, Development Minister Arrives

LD171545 Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Rabat, Dec 17 (MAP) — French Minister in charge of Cooperation and Development Christian Nucci arrived here Sunday for a two day work visit to Morocco.

He told reporters that his visit to Morocco occurs at the beginning of an extremely important period during which one must reorient the policy of Moroccan-French cooperation in line with the new objectives and the new orientations laid down by Moroccan authorities.

"I shall devote a part of my stay here to talks with the French community in Morocco, in particular the cooperants and technical assistants who ensure the training of Moroccan cadres", he said, as to his talks with Moroccan officials, Mr Nucci said they would focus on education and teaching.

Mr Nucci's visit comes after the one paid last June to Paris by his Moroccan counterpart, Mr Abdelouahed Radi who is now secretary general of the Arabo-African union. It also occurs after the signing on July 31 in Rabat of a new cooperation agreement between the two countries.

The French budget of cooperation with Morocco amounted for the year 1984 to 150 million.

Algerian Minister's Visit to Mauritania Viewed

LD151315 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Rabat, 15 Dec (MAP) — Commenting on the visit by the Algerian Ministry of Defense secretary-general to Nouakchott following the change that took place in the Mauritanian regime, the Moroccan Constitutional Union Party's mouthpiece *RISALAT AL-UMMAH* stressed that the aim of the visit is "to consecrate the Boumedienne course of spreading Algerian control and to change the courses of the regimes and countries towards one suitable to current principal Algerian attitudes."

It added that Mauritania renewed its recognition of the fictitious Saharan Republic within a few hours of the visit and called for a "negotiated solution," explaining that this is music played by Algeria's satellites.

The newspaper stressed that Algerian political behavior gives the distinct impression that it is trying to create protectorates in the region. That is what it wants to make Mauritania and what it is strongly and stubbornly attempting by creating a fictitious "republic" in the Arab Maghreb.

It mentioned that Algeria feared that Col Ould Taya might implement radical changes in Mauritanian foreign policies through which the presence of mercenaries on Mauritanian soil would end. That is why it hastened to send an Algerian envoy to Nouakchott.

In conclusion *RISALAT AL-UMMAH* pointed out that although the era of protectorates has ended, Algeria, which has positioned itself to replace the old colonialists, is explicitly committing the same crime and sin. It explained that the peoples of the region are able to combat the colonialists and defeat them, and to send the aggressors back defeated.

On the other hand, eyewitnesses in Nouakchott said that the detention of Mohamed Khouna, Ould Haydala, Mauritanian ex-president ousted the day before yesterday [12 December] by Col Maayouia Ould Sid Ahmed Taya, Mauritanian commander in chief, occurred without incident upon his leaving the aircraft at Nouakchott airport.

These witnesses said: "As soon as the aircraft landed at Nouakchott airport, it was immediately surrounded by officers. Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala was driven in a car surrounded by military cars to military barracks in the Mauritanian capital."

The curfew imposed throughout the country following the coup that removed President Ould Haydala's regime was lifted.

An official statement in Nouakchott confirmed that the airports and borders have reopened, and that the situation does not require the continuation of the restrictions imposed 12 December. It also pointed out that telephone and cable contacts with the outside world have resumed.

SUDAN

Al-Tayyib Briefs Numayri on Security

JN171552 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Dec (SUNA) — During his meeting at noon today with First Vice President Retired Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib, President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri was briefed on the progress of work at the state's organs while the president was in the PRC. In particular, the first vice president pointed out that he briefed the president on the security situation in the country. He noted that the president gave the necessary instructions to preserve sovereignty and independence, especially since Sudan is enjoying stability now.

The vice president said: We know what is taking place in the capitals of the neighboring countries. We have adopted all measures, steps, and defensive strategies to maintain our country's security and sovereignty.

TUNISIA

Libyan-Tunisian Security Committee Begins Talks

LD172328 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tunis, Rabi Awal 25, December 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — This morning in the Tunisian Ministry of Interior building started the working sessions of the joint Libyan Arab-Tunisian security committee. This committee specialises in discussing ways and methods to enforce and develop the cooperation horizons between the two brotherly countries in security fields.

Zeinel Abideen Ali [spelling as received] director general of national security in Tunisia opened the session with a speech. In his speech he said that the work of this committee comes in the framework of strengthening of the constructive cooperation ties between two brotherly peoples.

SOMALIA

Agreement Signed With Romanian Trade Unions

EA180600 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1115 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The General Federation of Somali Trade Unions and the General Trade Union Confederation of Romania today signed an agreement on cooperation and collaboration between the two organizations at the headquarters of the Somali trade unions in Mogadishu.

Mohmud Shire Ismail, acting chairman of the General Federation of Somali Trade Unions, signed on the Somali side and Mr Stefan Korodi, the administrative secretary of the General Union of Trade Unions of Romania and member of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee, signed on behalf of Romania.

Radio Halgan: 'Surprise Attack' Launched 9 Dec

EA172342 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The gallant fighters of the Somali National Movement, SNM wing of the Somali opposition forces made a surprise attack on the base of the loyalist troops of the Mogadishu regime in Burco, the capital of Togdheer region, on 9 December 1984. In it the SNM forces, fighting for justice, killed 30 soldiers still loyal to the dictatorial regime of General Barre.

Our reporter adds that the enemy troops suffered a great setback. [passage indistinct]

Defense Minister Visits North Secretly

EA180026 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The first vice president of the Mogadishu clique, who is also the so-called defense minister of the regime, General Ali Samantar, has made a secret visit to the country's northern regions. The reports say General Ali Samantar made the visit unannounced because the regime fears for his safety.

The reports add that the aim of the secret mission of General Ali Samantar is to tour and reorganize the remnants of the 26th Division of the regime's forces, which have been badly affected by the gallant fighters of the Somali National Movement, wing of the Somali opposition forces. General Ali Samantar plans to reinforce the debilitated division. [passage indistinct]

UGANDA

Prime Minister, Officials Address Voters Day Rally

EA171355 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT
17 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Otema Alimadi has emphasized the importance of freedom which has been provided by the government, but cautioned that such freedom must go with responsibility. Addressing a mammoth rally at (Achoo Baa) to mark the Voters Day celebrations in Kitgum South, Mr Otema Alimadi cautioned some individuals who have developed the habit of disturbing peace in the area by underground politicking. He dismissed allegations made by some people that the UPC [Uganda People's Congress] leadership has sent them in the constituencies to campaign for certain individuals, adding that the party has got a system of nominating candidates, and asked the people to reject such claims because the party believes in truth and honesty.

The prime minister conveyed President Obote's appeal to the people of Kitgum District not to mess up the peace that has been prevailing in the area. He castigated the leader of the Uganda Nationalist Liberation Party [as heard], Mr Tiberio Okenyi, for celebrating at the fall of the first UPC government in 1971, and accused him of instigating violence. The prime minister encouraged the youth to work hard and (?urged them) to be united.

The chief of defense forces, Gen Tito Okello, said [words indistinct] political education to ensure that peace prevails. He asked the people to support Dr Obote and his leadership, saying that without the support (?and) political will of the party and the people of Tanzania, the war against Amin would not have been a success. He stressed that the power of the government is the people and not the gun. The rally was also addressed by the minister of animal industry and fisheries, Dr Joseph Otim.

Trial of Democratic Party Leaders Begins

EA171633 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1000 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The leader of the opposition and president of the Democratic Party [DP], Dr Paul Kawanga Ssemogerere, today will appear before the chief magistrates court [as heard], Mr John Obwagamoi, charged with sedition. Along with Dr Ssemogerere on the same charges were DP publicity secretary, Dr Ojok Mulozi, and the editor of *MUNNANSI* newspaper, Mr Anthony Sekweyama. The principal state attorney, (Nabasi), representing the state, told the court that the defense counsel for the accused had applied for the transfer of the hearing to the Uganda high court and this has been granted. The court adjourned until 17th January 1985 when mention of this hearing in the high court will be made.

CHAD

Habre Leaves for Brazzaville, UDEAC Summit

AB171317 Paris AFP in French 0958 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Ndjamen, 17 Dec (AFP) — Chadian head of state Hissein Habre left Ndjamen this morning for Brazzaville, where the 20th summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa [UDEAC] and the summit conference of the Economic Community of Central African States will be held this week.

At that summit, Chad is expected to be readmitted into the UDEAC, which it left in 1970 on the charging that its partners did not take its interests into account within the union. At the last UDEAC summit in Bangui in 1983, President Habre officially applied for Chad's readmission into UDEAC, and the secretary general of the union was instructed to examine the modalities for the return.

Mr Habre is accompanied on his trip to Brazzaville by Chadian Finance Minister Elie Romba, and the secretary of state for economy, Amos Raoulengar. President Hissein Habre was preceded in the Congolese capital by a delegation of experts led by Adoum Moussa, minister of economy, and including Abba Sidick, minister of national education.

Soumaila Reacts To Al-Qadhdhafi Proposal

JN161521 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Ndjamen, 16 Dec (SUNA) — Asked by SUNA about Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's proposal that a French-Libyan-Greek-Syrian committee be formed to investigate the presence of French and Libyan forces in Chad, Chadian Information Minister and official spokesman for the Chadian Government, Mahamat Soumaila said that this proposal is aimed at covering the Libyan presence in Chad. He added: We have no objection in principle to forming a neutral committee with the Chadian Government's approval and participation.

Asked about reports that Chadian President Hissein Habre rejected the French forces returning to Chad only to play the same role they played in the recent Manta operation, the Chadian minister explained that Chad had demanded French help in expelling the Libyans following Libya's violation of the French-Libyan agreement, which was signed last September. [passage indistinct]

'No Objection in Principle'

AB171036 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Three months after the Tripoli Franco-Libyan agreement on the simultaneous withdrawal of foreign troops from Chad, Libya has not yet lived up to its commitment. France and Chad have denounced this breach of promise and condemned Al-Qadhdhafi's diversionary maneuvers. But he continues with his maneuvers.

He has just proposed the setting-up of a control commission to verify the military withdrawal in the field. In his fresh proposal, Al-Qadhdhafi involved extraneous elements; he included French, Libyan, Syrian, and Greek observers for the commission. In principle, Chad does not object to the idea of setting up the commission.

Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou reiterated this yesterday to the press. Mr Gouara's response naturally reflects the government's (?determination) to secure the effective implementation of the agreement. But Chad has reservations about the efficiency of the control because, according to the head of the Chadian diplomacy, there must be a serious control in the field.

But Al-Qadhdhafi's innovation and diversion lie in the role he attributes to the commission. As a matter of fact, Al-Qadhdhafi suggests that the joint observers' team should visit all the regions of Chad, more precisely the south, in order to note the presence of French troops there. In hearing this you will agree that the Tripoli colonel implicitly accuses France of maintaining its troops in Chad. He, therefore, appears like someone who does not trust France.

Questioned on Al-Qadhdhafi's statement, Mahamat Soumaila, minister delegate to the Presidency in Charge of Information, has said that the commission will effectively be set up and allowed to visit any region of the country and work there as long as it wishes but, he added that Al-Qadhdhafi's proposal could only be a diversionary maneuver aimed at deceiving the world opinion once again.

'Great Exasperation' Voiced at Mitterrand Remarks

AB171815 Paris AFP in French 1535 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Ndjamen, 17 Dec (AFP) — Although they unofficially did not hide their "great exasperation," authorities in Ndjamen observed a total silence on Francois Mitterrand's statement on Chad made Sunday night in Paris.

On Monday, the Chadian minister of information [Mahamat Soumaila] ordered the national radio and the CHADIAN PRESS AGENCY (ATP) not to mention "at any time and until further notice" the French president's statement. According to reliable sources in the Chadian capital, this attitude is due to the "exasperation and even the consternation" Mr Mitterrand's statement on Chad stirred within President Habre's regime.

A source close to the Presidency disclosed: "We have nothing to say. France's stand is quite clear: Mr Mitterrand's statement showed their refusal to enter into conflict with Libya. We are now aware of the fact that there is no difference between former External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's 'blunders' and Mr Mitterrand's view on the Chadian issue."

The same source is of the view that the two men believe that the Libyan presence in northern Chad is just a "defensive" act. There is "nothing to be expected from France in the way of kicking the Libyan occupation forces out of our territory," the same source disclosed.

CONGO

Leaders Begin Arriving for UDEAC Summit Meeting

CAR's Kolingba Arrives

*AB172255 Bangui Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] General Kolingba, the CAR head of state, arrived in Brazzaville today to attend the 20th summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa, UDEAC. Like all other heads of state present in Brazzaville, he was welcomed by Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the Congolese head of state.

Biya Arrives From Cameroon

*AB172002 Yaounde Domestic Service in English
1400 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Excerpt] President Paul Biya arrived in the Congolese capital early this afternoon to participate in the 20th summit meeting of the Central African Customs and Economic Union, UDEAC.

Habre Reacts To Mitterrand Remark

AB171810 Paris AFP in French 1516 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 17 Dec (AFP) — In a statement to AFP on Monday in Brazzaville, Chadian President Hissein Habre was very cautious in his reaction to President Mitterrand's statement on Chad the day before. The Chadian head of state is of the opinion that Chad and France are entitled to their own analyses of the situation in Chad.

On arrival in Brazzaville, where he is to attend two regional conferences, Mr Habre said that "President Mitterrand's press conference was mainly addressed to the French public opinion." Mr Mitterrand "has explained French foreign policy and his opinion about the situation in Chad," the Chadian president added. He made no reference to the implicit criticism of his regime and his policy in southern Chad. "Obviously, concerning Chad, we have our own assessments," Mr Habre concluded.

Chad 'Willing To Negotiate'

AB172150 Paris AFP in French 1840 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Brazzaville, 17 Dec (AFP) — The Chadian Government is still willing to resume the negotiations with the other Chadian factions in Brazzaville, "if the right conditions are met," a source close to President Hissein Habre disclosed in Brazzaville today. As a condition to such a meeting, the (?Njamena authorities) have always demanded the recognition of the legitimacy of the Chadian Government and its right to hold discussions as such with its "opposition parties." A previous meeting between Chadians failed when it encountered this obstacle.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

President Obiang Comments on Chad, UDEAC, CEAC

AB172045 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0930 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Dec (AZAP/PANA) — The assurances given by France in Bujumbura, Burundi, for increased assistance and for a continued sensitization campaign aimed at the industrialized countries give hope for more justice and solidarity in the future for Third World countries, Equatorial Guinea President Obiang Nguema Mbazogo said at a technical stopover at the Kinshasa International Airport on his way home after the Bujumbura French-African summit.

He stressed the significance of the session, which, he said, enabled them to examine the economic problems confronting the African countries, but without any significant hope for a solution in sight, he added.

Speaking of the situation in Chad, President Nguema was of the view that it has been aggravated with the violation by Libya of the disengagement agreements signed with France. However, he indicated that the Chadians themselves, in the meantime, have to devote their efforts to a solution while working toward national reconciliation. "The African leaders are encouraging them in this direction," he pointed out.

The Equatorial Guinea president furthermore expressed delight at the forthcoming conference of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa UDEAC, and of the first "summit" of the Central African States (CEAC) in Brazzaville, Congo, which, according to him, will enable Africans to unite their efforts and their means to fight efficiently against the adverse effects of the world economic crisis, which is now affecting their countries.

Commenting on Marshal Mobutu's idea of creating a black African states league, President Nguema notably stated that "it is a very positive idea that is to be thoroughly studied so that it can take shape," pointing out that the OAU would not be in a state of crisis as it is today if each sociological group could, within itself, solve its problems within an appropriate framework and then bring to the OAU only questions common to black and Arab countries, he added.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Grants Collective Amnesty to Prisoners

AB171540 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1307 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 December (AZAP) — Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, who wishes to mark the beginning of his third 7-year term of office with an act of clemency, on Saturday signed an ordinance relating to collective amnesty. The ordinance is as follows:

"Presidential ordinance relating to collective amnesty. The founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, considering the constitution, and especially its Articles 45 and 46,

wishing to mark the beginning of his third 7-year term of office with an act of clemency, and on the proposal of the state commissioner for justice, ordains:

Article 1: All persons undergoing a prison term of 3 years or less, beginning 5 December 1984, will be granted a total remission of the remaining years to be served.

Article 2: All persons serving a prison term of more than 3 years, beginning 5 December 1984, will be granted a sentence reduction of 3 years.

Article 3: The remissions and reductions of terms provided for by Articles 1 and 2 above do not apply to the following people:

1. Convicts who are fugitives or [word indistinct] at the time this ordinance enters into force.
2. Persons sentenced for murder, assassination, armed robbery, embezzlement of public funds, plots against state security, offenses connected with foreign exchange, and associating with criminals.

Article 4: The state commissioner for justice is in charge of the execution of this ordinance, which takes effect on the date it is signed. Issued in Kinshasa on 15 December 1984. [Signed] Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga

Executive Council Meets, Discusses Issues

AB172058 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1250 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Kinshasa, 16 Dec (AZAP) — In the execution of a permanent instruction given by Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the MPR founding chairman and president of the Republic of Zaire, which he recalled in his 5 December 1984 authoritative and historical "Accounts and Prospects," the members of the Executive Council — state commissioners and secretaries of state — met from 14 to 16 December 1984 at the party headquarters, N'sele, under the chairmanship of Citizen Kengo wa Dondo, the first state commissioner, to evaluate the Executive Council's activities during the past 2 years, especially the period between 30 June and 30 November 1984.

After recalling the great acts of guidance of Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, the MPR founding chairman and president of the Zairian Republic, over the past 2 years, as well as those contained in his address, "Accounts and Prospects" on 5 December 1984, the first state commissioner called on all the departments to immediately begin implementing the 1985 chapter of this vast plan of action for this new 7-year presidential term of office. Continuing their deliberations, the members of the Executive Council discussed a certain number of issues, notably:

1. A report from the state commissioner for finance, budget, and state investment on the implementation of the economic and financial review program of 30 November 1984 with projections up to the end of the year, as well as the program of contacts between the Executive Council and the IMF during the year 1985;

2. A report from the state commissioner for planning concerning: — the behavior of major economic indicators as of the end of November 1984 with projections up to the end of the year, the execution of the 1984 investment budget and the temporary 1983-1985 economic recovery program, the level of the preparation of the 1986-1990 5-year development plan, and the provisional results of the scientific population census.

For the year 1984, the growth rate is estimated at 2.5 percent from the levels reached by the main economic indicators and other additional information. The most recent on the evolution of the main sectors all show increases, especially mineral production (2 percent), exported agricultural products (6 to 6.7 percent), production of manufactured goods (4 percent), and petroleum production (24 percent).

For the year 1985, the projected growth rate will reach about 4 percent. These rates constitute a net revival and should be sustained by an appropriate monetary policy. The beginning of this economic revival constitutes undoubtedly a good departure point for the launching of the new 7-year term and the 5-year economic plan.

Between the end of December 1983 and the end of November 1984, price increases have reached 14 percent. A certain acceleration of inflation is noticed, as envisaged, during the month of November and will continue through the month of December because of the seasonal phenomenon of accelerated budgetary expenditure and a more rapid depreciation of the Zaire currency to the dollar.

Thus, for the year 1984, the annual inflation rate could be pegged at 17.4 percent, against about 100 percent in 1983. The inflation rate projected for 1985 is 20 percent as compared to 1984.

The exchange rate went beyond 40 zaires for 1 U.S. dollar at the last currency exchange quote, in conformity with the evolution projected at the beginning of the second semester of 1984. Thus, the Zaire currency continues to confirm its stability.

The preliminary results of the population census has just been published. At the beginning of the census (July 1984), the number of people residing in the country was 30 million including 600,000 non-Zairians. Projections based on two hypotheses, one minimal (2.3 percent a year) the other maximal (3 percent a year), show that at the end of the present 7-year term in 1991, the total population will reach 34.0 to 35.6 million, an increase of 5.3 to 7 million inhabitants.

IVORY COAST

Houphouet-Boigny Receives PRC Delegation

AB171323 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
15-16 Dec 84 p 5

[Text] The president of the republic, His Excellency Felix Houphouet-Boigny, yesterday at his private residence in Cocody granted audience to a Chinese Government delegation headed by Zheng Tuobin, vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade, and which arrived in our country on Tuesday. During the meeting, Zheng Tuobin delivered a letter from the PRC leader to President Houphouet-Boigny. Present at the audience were the Minister of Commerce Nicholas Kouandi, and the Chinese ambassador. The head of state expressed satisfaction with the level of cooperation between Ivory Coast and China and wished for its further development.

At the end of the audience, the Chinese vice minister of foreign economic relations and trade did not hide his satisfaction with his visit to the Ivory Coast during which he has signed two agreements on cooperation with our country in the areas of trade and agriculture. From the time we established diplomatic relations 2 years ago, "our cooperation has been developing very rapidly," he said. "It could not be otherwise since we have identical viewpoints on safeguarding world peace, for example."

GHANA

Accra Commentary Denounces TUC Leadership

AB172020 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT
16 Dec 84

[J.P. Mensah commentary]

[Text] The attitude of the Trade Union Congress [TUC] to the current economic recovery program and its responsibility to working people has brought into focus the question of whether the TUC's present leadership genuinely wants to see the recovery of this nation's economy and also the well-being of all hardworking, nonparasitic people. Viewed in the light of its pronouncements and statements, the sound, candid opinion of many political and economic analysts is that the TUC has:

1. Lost sight of its national objectives and responsibilities to working people;
2. Turned into an undemocratic institution incapable of living up to its founding guidelines; and
3. Over the years not been able to render accounts of its stewardship of workers views.

In the light of today, an organization like the TUC must be seen growing and transforming its role and zeal into viable productivity for its own economic survival and generating funds and welfare facilities for the enjoyment of the working people by organizing workers for large-scale agricultural and livestock communes. But rather, the TUC has so much narrowed its scope of objectivity so much so that in the eyes of general public, the only known function of the TUC is to demand wage and salary

increases, and even this it approaches in a manner not taking cognizance of national economic constraints. This attitude has led many to ask if the TUC has, as presently constituted, not outlived its day and usefulness and why a new and more democratic structure of TUC should not be borne out of the debris of the TUC of today.

The TUC has been a living witness and invariably a party to the steady decline in the economy by its collaboration with successive corrupt governments and politicians. It cannot escape responsibility for the present low wages and salaries of workers because it has all along supported the policy of subsidizing the prices of goods and services, which in reality concealed the true prices from working people and aids the government from making necessary adjustments in earnings according to its own financial ability. To be brief, the long-term economic effects of such policy are not in the interest of workers. The hypocrisy of the TUC is further exposed by the fruitful visible results coming from the government's economic recovery program. There is a general improvement in the transport sector. Essential inputs, such as spare parts, lorry tires, and batteries have started arriving in the country and this is a sign to all that the good old days when drivers had to beg passengers to join their vehicles are not far off. The wheels in our factories have started turning, though not at full capacity and it cannot be denied that the government is making the most out of limited foreign resources to better the lives of the people.

Even these efforts the TUC prefers to condemn. To most observers, stalemate in innovation has crept into the TUC resulting in its own self-contradiction and confusion. The TUC has (?turned) away from the searchlight the working people are focusing on its role and attitude as a whole and has launched a vilifying campaign of condemnation of genuine government efforts without submitting alternatives to deviate public attention from its own ineptitude and shortcomings. One thing is crystal clear: The TUC is fully aware of the positive outcome of the present recovery program and its future benefits for all. But the TUC, seeing itself being overtaken by fruitful events to which it thought to be the torchbearer, has chosen the path of negative approach to condemn, misinform, and mislead. The nation stands to demand unity and support from all, and the TUC leadership should not be found wanting in this national recovery crusade today.

NIGERIA

Idiagbon on Economy, Promotions, OAU, ECOWAS

AB170953 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT
16 Dec 84

[Interview with Major General Tunde Idiagbon, chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, on the program "Matters of the Moment;" date and place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified reporter] Chief of staff, you are welcome.

[Idiagbon] Thank you.

[Reporter] For a change, sir, I would like to take off from the foreign scene. Nigeria's role in the last OAU and ECOWAS summits seemed to have reestablished her in the leadership position which had eluded her in the recent past. Her firm stand on issues like Western Sahara and the economy of Africa put African leaders back to the path of reality. And Nigerians [words indistinct] in the honor of this achievement. Can their hope for a maintenance of this posture be strengthened? Sir, thank you.

[Idiagbon] For the past 2 years, the Organization of African Unity has been virtually paralyzed by diversionary political problems such as the Western Sahara and Chad. The organization was, therefore, unable to deal with the more pressing problems of economic and social development facing nearly all the member states of the OAU. The international economic recession, severe drought, and famine have combined to produce negative economic growth in several African countries. What Nigeria tried to do at the 20th OAU summit was to shift the organization's focus to this economic issue. The issue is the proposed special summit on economic matters. Our recognition of the SDAR removed the immediate threat to the survival of the OAU, but we will continue to work toward the achievement of a peaceful solution to the Western Sahara problem.

With regard to ECOWAS, the seventh summit in Lome in November was a success in the sense that Nigeria was able to persuade member states about the necessity for ECOWAS to move forward toward the objective of regional integration. Nigerians can expect this administration's continued dedication to the realization of economic and social integration in the West African subregion, as well as the strengthening of the OAU to make it more responsive to the hopes and aspirations of the people of Africa.

[Reporter] Now sir, I would like to make a full [word indistinct] to Nigeria's own economic issues. Now that we are preparing for the fifth national development plan, that is from 1986 to 1990, what are going to be the areas of impact, taking into consideration the stand of the head of state that grandiose programs would give way to the realities of our time?

[Idiagbon] The preparation of the fifth national development plan, that is from 1986 to 1990, has just been commenced and the policy programs and projects for the plan are still being formulated. No specific projects are currently envisaged, as project selection will only begin after a thorough analysis of the current situation and our future development needs. This preliminary exercise is expected to be completed not earlier than the end of 1985. However, since most of the development problems, which this administration inherited on assuming power, are still with us and may remain with us for most of the period covered by the new plan, the primary objective of the plan will therefore be to reshape the already battered economy so as to improve the living conditions of the average Nigerian.

The policy measures to be pursued during the next plan will include the diversification of the Nigerian economy in order to reduce the overdependence on the oil sector for the sustenance of economic and social development efforts. In this regard, emphasis will be placed on the implementation of a meaningful integrated rural development program in order to improve the living

standard of the rural communities which constitute more than 70 percent of the Nigerian population.

Agriculture will continue to receive priority attention in terms of policy direction and financial disbursement in a determined effort to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and meeting raw material needs for our agro-allied industries. The rehabilitation problems of our scheduled commodities, such as cocoa, groundnut, rubber, cotton, oil palm products, and so on and so forth will be pursued with greater vigor, subject, of course, to the limits of our financial resources. The industrial sector will also receive a boost as part of measures for resuscitating the economy. The emphasis will be on the promotion of industries which rely on local raw materials. (?Special) policies will be designed to encourage the private sector to commercialize the results of our research findings in order to develop an appropriate technology in the country. Efforts will also be directed toward boosting export promotion in order to diversify our foreign exchange earnings.

[Reporter] Now, general, back to an issue which is very sensitive and [words indistinct]. You see, of recent there have been a number of promotions in the Nigerian Army and these are making the civilian public compare the (?pay) of those in the civil service with their military counterparts. It would appear that promotions in the various civil services have been slowed down either by default or out of necessity and their salaries are being threatened with cuts. Listeners are therefore itching to know this administration's guidelines with regard to promotions generally and could you allay their fears that the military is being given preferential treatment?

[Idiagbon] Okay, I will try to explain this in detail. It is true that there have been promotions in the Armed Forces recently, but it is not correct to say that promotions in the civil services have been slowed down. With regard to the Armed Forces, it should be noted that many of the promotions approved and announced recently were, in fact, due before this administration came into power and, in certain cases, had actually been approved by the previous administration. What this administration did was simply to ratify the promotions which have long been earned by deserving officers. In fact, the delay was necessitated by the need not to give the wrong impression that we have come in only to promote ourselves. It should also be mentioned that all the recent promotions in the Armed Forces were made within the context of the approved establishment of each of the services and in keeping with the terms and conditions of service of the officers in the Armed Forces. You will see from this that the promotions in the military were made primarily in accordance with established military practice, that is according to the terms and conditions of each service and the promotion regulations binding on all Armed Forces officers.

It should be noted that the criteria for promotion in the civil service are different from those in the Armed Forces, as each of the organizations has different terms and conditions of service. The promotion prospects in the civil service are still as bright as before and the promotion of deserving officers is being conducted regularly in accordance with the laid-down procedures. The rate of promotion has, therefore, not been slowed down either by default or by necessity as alleged. For example, from January to

November 1984 and in spite of the reduction in the number of federal ministries and the prevailing austerity, a total of about 4,043 cadres on salary grade level G-8 to 16 were promoted. This figure compares favorably with the promotion of about 4,920 civil servants on the same salary grade levels from January to December 1983.

There is, consequently, no justification for civil servants to entertain any fear that the military is being given preferential treatment. As you yourself are quite aware, a number of your colleagues — that is journalists and press officials — have been promoted of late. The same thing is happening in the private sector where deserving employees are being promoted irrespective of the current economic recession. It is, therefore, clear that no preferential treatment is being given to the military in this regard.

Even during the civilian era, deserving officers were promoted [words indistinct]. The present hullabaloo sort of can only be due to the fact that the military is now in government. Also when general managers are promoted as managing directors, this is not reflected in their mode of dressing, but the military not only wear their rank but also have this rank attached to their name.

[Reporter] Now, may I direct your attention to the national economy? You see, it would appear that the nation is gaining a lot of weight economically. Recently, you, sir, announced that nation's foreign reserves have crossed the 1 billion mark and that external debts of about the same amount have been repaid. This presupposes that our economy is getting (?ready). So, how long now do you forecast that Nigerians will wait before they can see the full impact of this improvement?

[Idiagbon] Yes, it is true that Nigeria's total external reserves partly exceeded the 1 billion mark at the end of June, which represents a significant improvement over the level at the end of December 1983. You are no doubt aware of the adverse development in the international oil market in the first quarter which forced us to reduce the selling price of our crude petroleum by \$2 per barrel with the view to maintaining our share of the market. This will necessarily result in a reduction in our foreign exchange earnings during the first quarter. On the external debt front, although the debt service increased significantly this year, this administration has succeeded in meeting the external debt obligations as and when due in spite of the [word indistinct] foreign exchange position through prudent foreign exchange management. But while the overall foreign exchange position this year has shown some improvement over that of last year, there is still a long way to go before we are out of the woods.

[Reporter] Now, chief of staff, may I take your mind back some 6 months? You see, in our July edition of this program, you indicated the Federal Military Government's intention to reduce our overdependence on petroleum as the main source of foreign exchange on government revenue. Our listeners would like to know the progress so far.

[Idiagbon] There is no doubt that you are aware that the period of 6 months is too short to drastically change the Nigerian economy, which is at the moment quite monolithic. Nevertheless, the present administration is pursuing with vigor the execution

of some key projects through which the economy can be diversified. They include, among others, the reactivation of both cash and food crops in the agricultural sector, petrochemical, liquefied natural gas, and steel development projects. When these projects are [word indistinct], they will not only satisfy local consumption, but will also provide additional avenues for foreign exchange earnings, thereby reducing the present overdependence on oil as a source of foreign exchange earnings. I would like to emphasize, however, that the process of diversifying the economy will take some years before the desired result can be achieved. The diversification of any monolithic economy, you will agree with me, cannot be achieved overnight.

[Reporter] Chief of Staff, another area which has been giving civil servants and workers sleepless nights is the retrenchment exercise which has continued up till now, although the Federal Government has stressed that it did not wish to lay off workers if it could help it. Some listeners have complained that the exercise is being used to harass workers, so much so that they live in perpetual fear, thereby affecting their productivity efforts. In some areas, the exercise is being unduly prolonged and made to dangle over the heads of workers like the sword of Damocles whereas the exercise of weeding out bad eggs could have been completed in one sweep so that those that remain could face their jobs and increase their efficiency. Is the Federal Military Government thinking of accelerating the removal of bad eggs so that the [words indistinct] and the complaint of witch-hunting laid to rest?

[Idiagbon] The retrenchment exercise in the public service is not carried out either to harass or witch-hunt anybody. The government, in its effort to instill discipline, increase productivity, and reduce cost in the public service, embarked upon the retirement, termination, and dismissal of officers. All the workers in the public service retrenched so far can be classified into two broad groups: officers who should have been removed from the service as a result of disciplinary action which should have been concluded with dispatch or the officers who, by reason of age or ill health or due to any other cause, their continued employment would not be in the public interest. As of now, the mass purge of the public service based upon the above criteria which I have mentioned can be said to be over. Subsequent cases of disciplinary action are being handled in the normal way by the Federal Civil Service Commission or the chief executives of the ministries and departments.

[Reporter] Now sir, you also gave a hint around July on this program that the Federal Military Government is to stop the importation of food items with low food value into the (?country). But it would appear that the importation of these items has continued with shiploads streaming in. Is the government going back on this promise or are these ship loads the result of previous orders?

[Idiagbon] Yes, the Federal Military Government has not gone back on its decision to minimize or completely stop the importation of food items with low quality food value. Through the appropriate control of the grant of import licenses, less emphasis is being placed on food importation, particularly those food items that come into the country in finished forms. The only exceptions might be salt, sugar, milk, baby food, and edible oil, the latter

production of which is not sufficient to meet the country's demands at the moment. It must also be realized that imported goods take about 4 to 6 months to arrive and they do not arrive all at a go. Thus, what we have already ordered may still be coming in up to about the middle of next year.

[Reporter] Sir, still on the socioeconomic plane, the drought that is ravaging the northern or most parts of the country is not new. It has been a yearly phenomenon for decades and so also is the desert encroachment. It would appear that these threats have become so menacing that their effects are approaching the scale of national disaster. What concrete step is government taking before we witness mass exodus to the south or add the refugee problem to our already numerous headaches?

[Idiagbon] The present administration is very concerned about the drought situation in parts of the country, especially its attendant effect on the food situation and the living conditions of the people in the affected areas. It is in this regard that the government, through the National Emergency Relief Agency, recently commissioned a field assessment of the situation in Sokoto, Kano, Bauchi, Borno, Gongola, and Kaduna States with a view to taking necessary measures to arrest the situation. The recommendations of the field assessment are now being studied and government will soon make its decision on the subject known. It is hoped that the decisions will assist in checking the menace of drought in the affected areas. At the moment, measures being undertaken by government for (?checking) the drought and desert encroachment are things like the drilling of new boreholes and repair to the existing ones with a view to facilitating provision of drinking and irrigation water for livestock and crops, the intensification of afforestation programs in the Sahel areas of the country the Federal Department of Forestry, the intensification of rinderpest control as the main reason for rinderpest [words indistinct], the systematic development of the country's abundant water resources through the better utilization of the facilities available to the river basins and rural development authorities and, of course, the increasing of the number of small (?earth) dams and boreholes in the states, provision of more agricultural facilities and financial assistance for the development of agriculture in the rural areas as a way of encouraging the young ones to stay put on the land.

Comments on Budget, Economy

AB171955 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Next year's federal budget is to reflect the recommendations of the Onoshodi Projects Review Committee. Explaining that the budget would be the first to be prepared on the basis of the principles of the military administration, the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, said the government would not embark on new projects under the year. [sentence as heard]

At his quarterly briefing of media executives in Lagos, Gen Idiagbon disclosed that so far 129 million naira had been recovered by the federal and state investigation panels and tribunals.

On the country's finances, Gen Idiagbon remarked that although measures taken to revamp the economy were yielding results, the economy was still relatively depressed. He pointed out that the level of wages and salaries was considerably higher than could be justified in the present economic situation.

He said the government intends to review fringed benefits in the public sector with effect from next month. He said the Public Service Negotiation Council and representatives of the labor generally showed a great deal of understanding on the issue.

The chief of staff pledged that the Federal Government would continue to accord respect to well-behaved Nigerian women who travel overseas. Commenting on public reactions to the search of female travelers at the international airports, Gen Idiagbon said it was untrue that women suspected of carrying narcotics were being examined in an exposed cubicle.

He pledged that the government would, within available resources, acquire sophisticated equipment for the conduct of the examination. The chief of staff said the method adopted by women in the smuggling bid generated total condemnation from the public.

Buhari Receives Spanish Envoy on Ship Captain

AB172008 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The Supreme Military Council [SMC] is to consider the case of the Spanish national, Captain Jose Luis Pecina, convicted under the Special Miscellaneous Offenses Decree. Receiving a special envoy from King Juan Carlos of Spain at Dodan Barracks, the head of state, Major General Muhammadu Buhari, said the Federal Government would not blame any foreign country over attempts to sabotage the nation's economy. Gen Buhari said in most cases, it was Nigerians who connived with foreigners to sabotage the economy.

Oil Minister Departs for Geneva OPEC Meeting

AB171535 Lagos NAN in English 1205 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Lagos, Dec 17 (NAN) — The minister of petroleum and energy, Prof Tam David-West, left Lagos yesterday to attend a meeting of OPEC oil ministers opening in Geneva on Wednesday. He was accompanied by NPC's [Nigerian National Petroleum Company] managing director, Mr Festus Marinho, and three other officials of the corporation.

A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports that the OPEC ministers are expected to re-examine their strategy for stemming the slide in oil prices agreed upon in October in Geneva but which had failed to halt the decline. The ministers will also consider the report of a three-nation committee set up in October to find ways of resolving the price differential issue.

SENEGAL

Diouf Returns From Bujumbura Summit, Comments

AB171133 Dakar PANA in French 0937 GOT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Dakar, 17 Dec (APS-SEN/PANA) — Senegal approves the steps taken by President Francois Mitterrand on Chadian affairs, stated President Abdou Diouf on Sunday afternoon on his return from Paris where he paid a private visit after participating in the conference of heads of state of France and Africa which was held in Bujumbura (Burundi), on 11 and 12 December.

"We all admired President Mitterrand's concern for the problems of security in Africa in general and Chad in particular," added the Senegalese head of state who, however, emphasized that the Bujumbura conference devoted more attention to economic rather than political issues.

Chad was not the key subject of our discussions contrary to press reports, President Diouf stressed emphatically. According to

him, the Bujumbura conference was the first French-African summit to be devoted to problems of famine, desert encroachment, and indebtedness of the continent. In this connection, President Abdou Diouf said that France is the favorite defender of the cause of the Third World in general and Africa in particular. He stated also that the Senegalese delegation briefed the heads of state on problems faced by countries affected by drought and made concrete suggestions which were accepted by the summit.

He spoke of his visit to Paris, where he held private talks with his French counterpart, and noted that France and Senegal always share a "perfect identical viewpoint." "President Mitterrand and I have decided to keep these relations at their present level which is the highest that can be reached," he added.

Portugal To Curb UNITA, Renamo in Lisbon

*LD172204 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese
1918 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[From the weekly African affairs program "Cape of Good Hope"]

[Text] The Portuguese Government has decided to close in on activities in Lisbon by the Angolan and Mozambique opposition movements -- UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] and Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance]. Following repeated complaints by the Angolan and Mozambique governments, the Portuguese Foreign Ministry already took steps to find a constitutional and legal way to curb the activities of the representatives of these two organizations in the Portuguese capital.

We learned that a special office is already set up, headed by Nuno dos Santos, with a view to studying the statements made by Evo Fernandes and Jorge Correia [Renamo secretary general and Renamo representative in Europe, respectively] in Portugal over the past 2 years. An examination of such public statements may prove that they are liable for criminal proceedings [words indistinct].

ANGOLA**Military Actions Against UNITA Reported**

*MB150824 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] A total of 139 UNITA bandits were put out of action by the Angolan Armed Forces from 1 November to the present date in Cuanza Norte and Benguela Provinces. In Cuanza Norte Province, specifically at Lucala and Golungo Alto, our Armed Forces destroyed two enemy camps, wiping out 125 bandits, and capturing two others and various war equipment from Western countries. Civilians who were living in two camps as forced labor were freed.

At Mutima mountain, and in Macomuno region, in Benguela Province 14 bandits were killed in fighting that took place at different places. A big counterrevolutionary camp situated at Chongoroi municipality was completely destroyed. Seven civilians who were living in the camp in most deplorable conditions were given humanitarian assistance and released. More than 132 head of cattle taken away forcibly from farmers were recovered.

One of the Angolans freed in that operation, Joao Antonio Francisco, aged 69, a farmer, said he had been taken by force by the bandits when he was returning home from his farm. He also said that there is a great deal of dissatisfaction in the camps of that puppet organization.

Many UNITA members no longer believe in what their leaders say and they do not agree with the ill-treatment of civilians. Many of them are only looking for an opportunity to escape and request our Armed Forces to protect them. The lies propagated by UNITA, that the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] kills those surrendering, are no longer believed. People living in UNITA camps already know that

FAPLA does not and has never killed those who give up. Joao Francisco Antonio stressed that it is hoped that many of those who are still in the bush will surrender shortly.

In November, a UNITA member, called Luciano de Almeida, surrendered to the Armed Forces with all his military equipment at Chongoroi area. This compatriot also reported discontentment in UNITA ranks.

In Luau, a UNITA bandit, (Quitomba) Mateus, who was attempting to infiltrate the area for sabotage operations, was tried and sentenced by the military tribunal of the 3d Region to 4 years imprisonment.

A force of 20 other counterrevolutionaries was detected in Bie Province by the people's vigilante brigades, according to ANGOP in a report published yesterday. At the same time in Gabela town, Cuanza Sul Province, the first self-defense battalion comprising Amboim workers was introduced to the members of the public after intensive military training. Other battalions will be set up to help with coffee harvesting, rural marketing, and reactivation of all abandoned farms in areas plagued by bandit activity. The setting up of such battalions responds to the need to curb even further the activity of antisocial groups in different provinces in the country.

BOTSWANA**President Masire on Economic Development**

*MB171717 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1111 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has told visiting French journalists that he wants to see Botswana leading a high quality life in the next 15 years. Looking further ahead, Dr Masire said that the principal asset during the year 2000 should be the high degree of social and economic development in Botswana.

President Masire said, in an interview with the journalists that his government would continue to work hard to create employment in the rural areas, in order to improve the quality of life there and offset migration to the urban areas. He said Botswana had to develop the mining sector in an aggressive way, because tilling the soil in arid Botswana was not a rewarding endeavor.

While the government was carrying out the accelerating rural development, it had to also promote international trade and provide infrastructure throughout the country. He made the observation that the country's economic developments since independence had continued to register substantial progress to an extent that Botswana now had enough foreign exchange to last 7 Months. He said that for as long as the Botswana Democratic Party remained in power, Botswana's noble principle of democracy would continue to be the order of the day.

President Masire said that the government was convinced that it was only when people were united that they could work hard. His government was therefore pursuing the philosophy of Agisanya, which is compatible with the principle of democracy. The country was able to acknowledge and practice the multi-party system, he

said, because Botswana had, since time immemorial, believed that every person has the right to be heard.

On the recent signing of Lome III, Dr Masire said Botswana hoped to get better trading terms and convince the EEC that it was healthy to have a strong trading partner.

Referring to the Southern Africa Development Coordination Committee [SADCC], Dr Masire said member countries intended to rationalize industries, so that each country could do what it is suited for. He said the strategy was that SADCC member countries should not find themselves flooding their markets with one item at the expense of others.

LESOTHO

BNP Gives Jonathan Mandate for Calling Elections

*MB171350 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] The leader of the Basotho National Party [BNP], Dr Leabua Jonathan, was this weekend mandated by an extraordinary general meeting of the party to call for a general election in 1985, to lead the party, and to do all things necessary within the constitution of the party to ensure the party's success in the elections.

Passing resolutions at the party headquarters on Saturday, BNP delegates commended the leader of the party, Dr Leabua Jonathan, for his efforts in maintaining and fostering the dignity and good reputation of the party, and pioneering the cause and objectives of the BNP government in its political, economic, and social policies during the most trying crisis.

The party congress expressed appreciation of the outstanding efforts of Cabinet ministers, members of parliament, members of the civil service, and the chiefs.

MOZAMBIQUE

'Bandits' Using Psychological Warfare

*MB171423 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] According to the newspaper *NOTICIAS*, President Samora Machel said yesterday that the actions of the armed bandits near the country's cities, particularly Maputo, merely amount to psychological warfare.

President Samora Machel was speaking before the conclusion of the 11th coordinating council of the Ministry of Education. Pointing out that the targets of the armed bandits are primarily unprotected people — who are barbarously and [word indistinct] murdered — President Samora Machel stated that the bandits are attacking and destroying railroads, bridges, and powerlines to achieve spectacular effects, thus affecting the population psychologically.

President Samora Machel recalled that since the war against what was then Southern Rhodesia, the enemy imperialist forces

have always failed in attempts to transform armed banditry into a tribal and racial war, and try to divide Mozambicans into tribes, ethnic groups, and races fighting each other in a fratricidal war.

FPLM Operations; 'Bandits' Attack Near Maputo

10 Killed in Inhambane

*MB150950 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0400 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] A total of 10 Armed bandits were killed by our forces on 4 December, when the FPLM attacked and destroyed yet another bandit refuge in Pembe, Homoine district, Inhambane Province. Our forces captured various war materiel and goods that had been stolen from the population. At this time, mopping up operations are underway to capture the bandits on the run.

Meanwhile, on 3 December, a group of armed bandits was surprised by our Armed Forces in the area of Penhame, also in Homoine district. During this operation the armed bandits left behind a number of very important operational documents, a grenade, colonial military rank stripes corresponding to the rank of 1st corporal, and goods that had been stolen from the population.

'Bandits' Kill 11 People

*MB160537 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] A total of 11 people were killed on 14 December in an attack carried out by the armed bandits on the road between Maputo and the border with Swaziland. A source of the general staff of the Mozambican Armed Forces told the Mozambique Information Agency [AIM] that the attack took place 60 km from the country's capital. Two foreigners are among the victims. The victims were shot and some bodies were bayoneted.

One of the trucks, a Land Rover, belonging to a development project financed by the Nordic countries, was being driven by a livestock veterinarian who was accompanied by a Portuguese national and a Mozambican agricultural technician. This truck and another Toyota truck were going to Maputo. They were carrying agricultural workers. Also shot up was a Mazda belonging to a Mozambican national residing in South Africa. A fourth truck travelling to Namaacha was also ambushed at the same spot.

The trucks from Namaacha were burned and some of the victims were reduced to ashes. Residents at the spot where the attack occurred told AIM that the gangsters had intended to attack a bus that had been expected to leave at 1600. However, the bus left 1 hour earlier, thus escaping ambush.

Several people told AIM that the armed bandits operating in Namaacha carry out their incursions from South African territory. The gangsters usually cross the border, after their actions, returning to South Africa.

Within a week, armed bandits have killed at least 10 foreign nationals on Mozambican territory. On 6 December, seven GDR agricultural technicians and one Yugoslav were killed in Niassa Province. These murders come in the wake of orders given from Lisbon to kill foreign nationals working in Mozambique, as they are regarded as military targets.

According to AIM, it is regarded in Maputo with indignation that spokesmen of the armed banditry are continuing to operate in Lisbon with a great deal of impunity. They claim responsibility for terrorist actions carried out on Mozambican territory.

'Bandits' Resupplied by Air

MB161005 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
0605 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Interview with Brigadier Matias Juma, Tete provincial military commander — place and date not given; recorded]

[Excerpt] We discussed with Brigadier Juma the question of the resupply by air of the armed bandits in Tete Province. On this question the provincial military commander said:

[Begin Juma recording] The bandits are being resupplied. We have recently witnessed night flights. Tete Province is crossed by international flights. There are international flights that cross this province to other countries. As you know, Tete Province borders Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, so planes making international flights overfly this province.

However, there are other planes, which fly in the dead of night. We think that perhaps some of these planes, which do not follow routes indicated by the Mozambique airlines and other airlines, could be supplying the bandits with equipment. Where these planes come from, we do not know. [end recording]

Brigadier Juma made it clear that though we do not positively know the source of the night flights, everything appears to indicate that the armed bandits are being resupplied. Moreover, according to disclosures by Constantino Reis, a former armed bandit, even immediately after the Nkomati Accord, planes and ships from South Africa supplied war equipment to various areas of our territory. It is also known that many other night flights have been violating our airspace in Manica, Gaza, and Inhambane Provinces.

ANC Hails Support, Cites 'Fresh Assaults'

MB172030 Maputo in English to Southern Africa
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The ANC of South Africa has paid tribute to the unselfish and (?principled) support it has received from the people of Mozambique and their leaders over the years. ANC national executive member, (Robert Mahlu), was speaking in Maputo yesterday at a ceremony to mark South African heroes day.

During the ceremony, tombstones of South African refugees murdered in Mozambique were unveiled. They include 12 people killed in the January 1981 South African commando raid on

Matola, and a scholar, Ruth First, murdered by a parcel bomb in her office at Maputo's Eduardo Mondlane University in August 1982. Mr (Mahlu) said the support of Mozambique, the Frontline States, and the OAU had made a vital contribution to the ANC's current position of strength, in which it was preparing fresh popular assaults on the laager of apartheid. He also paid tribute to the many thousands of Mozambicans who have given their lives for the cause of independence and social [word indistinct] of liberation in southern Africa.

Mr (Mahlu) said the ANC was well aware that the terrible machine of armed banditry was constructed largely to punish the Mozambican people for the support they gave to the South African Liberation struggle. He said the ANC [word indistinct] to unite and lead all patriotic and democratic forces in a single people's movement to destroy apartheid root and branch, and to build a new society in which power belongs to the people. Those who had died, he added, had given their lives so the world could be rid, once and for all, of the evil and inhuman system of apartheid, and not to create a system of liberal apartheid or democratic racism if such things are possible.

Mr (Mahlu) said the martyrs of the liberation struggle represented all the generations and culture of the South African people. While the Pretoria regime used diversity of culture as a source of exploitation and hatred, for the ANC that diversity was a source of richness and strength.

In a brief speech at the ceremony, a senior official of Mozambique's friendship and solidarity association pledged Mozambique's continued support for the ANC and the South African liberation struggle.

NAMIBIA

Commander Urges Afrikaners on National Unity

MB161145 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The general commanding the South-West Africa Territory Force, Major General George Meiring, says the power of the Afrikaner in South-West Africa does not lie in isolation, but rather in a national unity role. Gen Meiring was speaking at a Day of the Vow function at Keetmanshoop. He said the outside onslaught against South-West Africa was not only against the Afrikaner but the whole population. He said that for this reason action could not be carried out in isolation. He added that provisions should be made to ensure justice and freedom for all.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reaction Continues to U.S. Protests, Disinvestment

Protests Can't Force 1-Man, 1-Vote

MB180634 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The South African ambassador to the United States, Dr Brand Fourie, says the anti-South African protests now sweeping

the United States will not force South Africa to adopt a system of 1-man, 1-vote. He said in Washington that the system had led to socialism and economic decay in the rest of Africa. The pattern had invariably been one free election, then a 1-party system followed by a gradual move toward either socialism or Marxism and economic decay.

He said the South African Government wanted to develop a system which afforded people political rights, while avoiding the situation which had arisen in the rest of Africa. Dr Fourie suggested that the protesters were playing American politics and using South Africa as a pawn. However, the demonstrations have had one good effect in that they had generated interest in South Africa. This, in turn, had afforded the South African Government an opportunity to put forth its views.

Christmas 'Celebrity' Protest Planned

MB170715 Umtata Capital Radio in English
0600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Antiapartheid activists in the United States are apparently wooing film stars to join their protests. It is reported that a major demonstration is planned for Christmas Eve to be held outside the South African Embassy in Washington. The organizers are apparently aiming to have a mass of celebrities arrested at a moment charged with symbolic significance. A number of big names in show business have reportedly said they will be there for the rally, which is apparently being planned by civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

Meanwhile, three more anti-apartheid demonstrators were arrested on Saturday outside a gold and silver exchange in Pittsburg. They were protesting against the sale of Krugerrands in the United States. Several children were also taken into custody although they were not charged. The protestors complained that police used unnecessary force. Police sources say the demonstrators ignored three warnings that they were forcing pedestrians off the pavement.

Opposition To Disinvestment

MB170648 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] A number of black and white leaders have expressed opposition to the proposed disinvestment action against South Africa by the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Bishop Desmond Tutu. A spokesman for the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Mr John September, said in an South African Broadcasting Corporation program that the action proposed by Bishop Tutu would not be to the political or social advantage of the people of the country.

He said it was a pity that disinvestment was being used as a political weapon without taking into account its economic implications.

The chief minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, also expressed opposition to the disinvestment action, and a well-

known black playwright, Mr Gibson Kente, said that many blacks felt that disinvestment would spell their economic end.

The director of the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr (Steve Besenias), said that American companies believed that South Africa was one of the most profitable countries in which to invest. He said that American investment had had a very positive effect on the economy of the country.

The director of the Federated Chamber of Industries, Dr Johan van Zyl, said that reasonably successful disinvestment could be detrimental to South Africa in various economic fields. He said that it could lead to a drop in the general standard of living.

The director general of finance, Mr Gerhard Groeser, said that total economic sanctions would force the country to its knees.

Editorial on Anti-Apartheid Campaign

MB141444 Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans
9 Dec 84 p 14

[Editorial: "U.S.A.-RSA"]

[Text] The campaign being conducted at the South African Embassy in Washington and the South African consulates elsewhere in the United States against this country's internal policy heralds a new and serious onslaught against the republic.

The intention of the organizers is clear: They want to create a climate in the United States which will force the Reagan administration to deal harshly with South Africa, and to abandon its policy of constructive engagement; to persuade members of Congress to support disinvestment and sanctions against this country; to discourage American businessmen from investing in South Africa and, indeed, to get them to withdraw their investments and interests.

There are a number of examples from the past which prove that American Governments and members of Congress yield in the face of public pressure, despite recommendations to the contrary from expert advisers. This could easily happen again.

General opinion in the United States is becoming more and more involved in the campaign against South Africa. This is why President Reagan deviated from his original intention not to meet Bishop Desmond Tutu. This is why a group of Republican congressmen threatened to support mandatory disinvestment and sanctions against this country if changes were not made rapidly. This places the South African Government in a difficult position. If it reacts now, the impression would be given that the government was bowing to blackmail. On the other hand, assurances from the government about its plans for black political rights could cool the atmosphere in the United States considerably.

This country does have a case, even though the process of creating a new dispensation is still in the negotiation stage. The issue being used in the United States for the campaign is the detention of certain trade union leaders. To the Americans, detention without trial is unforgivable. This view is being exploited to the limit by the leaders of the campaign.

In these circumstances, it would seem to us that the fear of being seen to surrender under unreasonable pressure is of secondary importance. The government should give assurances by repeating its intentions regarding black political rights. It should also reaffirm the rights of trade unions. It is in the best interests of the country that there be no delay. Once the resolve for action against South Africa has been created in influential circles, it will be very difficult to stop.

Commentary Warns of Disinvestment

*MB170853 Johannesburg International Service
in English 0630 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Station commentary: "Disinvestment and South Africa's Neighbors"]

[Text] A serious warning has been issued to South Africa's neighbors in the event of the disinvestment campaign against South Africa proving successful.

In a statement, the U.S. ambassador to Lesotho, Dr S.L. Abbott, has said that disinvestment would hurt the economies of smaller countries surrounding South Africa. Referring in particular to a visit to the United States by Lesotho's minister of water and energy and mining, Mr Matette Majara, who had laid the groundwork for support for Lesotho's Highlands Water Project, Dr Abbott said that Lesotho would be hard hit if disinvestment supporters attempted to stop the project on the grounds that South Africa would reap some benefit.

These views fall in line with those expressed by the director of World Bank projects in Sub-Saharan Africa, Mr (Jose Bronkman). Interviewed during a visit to South Africa, he said he favored regional cooperation. He also indicated that should relations between South Africa and Lesotho deteriorate, the World Bank would withdraw its involvement from the Highlands Water Project.

On the (?broad) issue of sanctions and disinvestment against South Africa, Lesotho is one of the few countries in Africa, if not the only one, which has been willing to state openly that it opposes sanctions against South Africa. Lesotho admits that sanctions against South Africa would come as a serious economic blow to Lesotho, which, incidentally, has been listed by the United Nations as among the 10 poorest countries in the world.

A multitude of black and other leaders in South Africa have stated repeatedly that disinvestment would hit the black people of South Africa much harder than the whites. Many thousands of black people would be out of employment. This would prove disastrous to South Africa's neighbors. Many thousands of black people from neighboring states work in South Africa simply because there is no work for them at home. Lesotho alone has about 50 percent of its labor force working in South Africa.

Should disinvestment lead to South African black people losing their jobs, the natural reaction of from this country would be to take the type of action whereby foreign black people are sent back to their own countries to make way for South Africans who are

without work. This, in fact, would be a demand made by the black people of South Africa.

Disinvestment does not hold a single advantage for the black people of South Africa and those living in surrounding countries and the sooner this is appreciated the better.

Officials Comment on Black-White Relations in RSA

Needs of All Must Be Met

*MB161152 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] The minister of transport affairs, Mr Hendrik Schoeman, says the time for preying on the sentiments of others and making unrealistic proposals is over. Speaking at (Leeuwpn) in the Vryburg District of the Northern Cape, Mr Schoeman said that it was time that people became aware of hard reality and took note of the needs and aspirations of everyone in South Africa. He said that the country would only achieve success if it strove for fair and just treatment of all in the country.

'Separate Existence' Defended

*MB160550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 16 Dec 84*

[Text] In South Africa the leader of the Conservative Party, dr Andries Treurnicht, says the Afrikaner does not regard himself as a member of some chosen race at the expense of others, but he believes he is a member of a nation which has its own culture, its own right to a separate existence, and to a distinctive territory.

Addressing a meeting in Bloemfontein organized by the Sarel Cilliers Day of the Vow festival committee, Dr Treurnicht said that a nation had the right to protect its identity and to make laws to prevent it from being swamped by others. He said that if the Afrikaner wanted to weaken his nationality and is swamped by multiracialism, he should no longer honor the vow made by the Voortrekkers.

Black Negotiation Rights Defended

*MB160630 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 15 Dec 84*

[Text] The chief minister of Lebowa, Dr Cedric Phatudi, says blacks have a legitimate right to negotiate with the central government on their own and on joint affairs. He was speaking at (Nebo), where he opened the recently completed (Marishani) tribal offices. Dr Phatudi said the right of negotiation did not presuppose an opting for independence, but rather a federal type of government for southern Africa. Referring to the violence in black townships over the past few months, Dr Phatudi said he wanted to warn the youth that violence begot violence. He said that nobody in South Africa approved of violence.

'Must Prove' Desire for Reform

MB170948 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English
16 Dec 84 p 18

[Article, "My Heart Is Where the Hurt Is ... in the Real World We Cannot Ignore," By Johan Degenaar, professor of political philosophy at Stellenbosch University]

[Text] *The writer is author of "Morality and Politics," "Survival Through Justice" and "The Choice Before the Afrikaner" in which he criticises verligtheid and argues in favour of open pluralism and consociational democracy.*

Verligtheid has become the shibboleth of "reasonable Nationalists" and Willem de Klerk and Willie Esterhuyse have shaped into the uncontested leaders of the verligtes.

De Klerk has formulated the position of the verligtes in terms of non-negotiables.

According to him the verligtes cannot accept the following:

- One man, one vote in a unitary state.
- The loss of the White power-base.
- A national convention.
- And the rejection of ethnic associations.

In Willie Esterhuyse's article "Verligtheid: The Road Ahead" (SUNDAY TIMES, December 2) we find the same verligte sympathies, the same trust in the NP as the party of reform.

He concentrates on the positive side of verligtheid which includes an appropriation of democratic principles which have often been discussed by writers outside the confines of the verligte circle.

These principles are important, but in Esterhuyse's article they are only significant to the extent that an attempt is made with classic verligte footwork to reconcile them with fundamental NP principles.

This introduces a tragic dimension to the discussion.

Why tragic? Because we have in Esterhuyse someone in the contradictory position of genuinely striving towards democratisation within a power structure which is genuinely based on non-democratisation.

How can one consider both democratisation and NP policy at the same time?

Democratisation and power sharing entail the incorporation of blacks in a political dispensation in which blacks will inevitably be in the majority and whites will be far from powerless but will indeed lose their exclusive position of power.

If we accept democratisation and mean it, then we have to accept this honestly and publicly propagate the fact that blacks will

constitute a majority in a new democratic South Africa in which all groups and classes will be truly represented.

But if, at the same time, one wants to remain within the parameters of NP policy, one must respect the integrity of the NP.

This entails that we must accept the clear statements of NP leaders that democratisation and fully-fledged power sharing with blacks is not acceptable to the government, neither as short-term nor as long-term policy.

One cannot have one's cake and eat it.

One has to choose either for democratisation and its consequences or for NP policy and its consequences.

The choice of the verligte for two positions in clear contradiction to one another, leads to a schizophrenic way of thinking which does not contribute to clarity in political discussions.

To say that verligtes are willing to share power with blacks, but that they are not in favour of a dispensation in which blacks will inevitably form a majority in a fullyrepresentative democracy, illustrates the tragic contradiction of verligtheid.

This is a clear misuse of the term power sharing.

Another contradiction in the thinking of verligtes is their talk of power sharing while at the same time — under pressure of NP policy — rejecting voluntary political association and insisting instead on an imposed ethnicity and structural association.

There is no real power sharing if the dominant group imposes membership on association.

Free association is crucial to demonstrate power sharing.

One should respect the integrity of the NP in rejecting power sharing based on voluntary association and I understand why this rejection constitutes the *raison d'être* of its policy.

Therefore, the verligtes are mistaken in linking NP policy with democratisation.

I sympathise with Esterhuyse in his concern for democracy in South Africa but the logic of the two contradictory positions makes it impossible for me to agree with his attempted synthesis.

The same tragic contradiction also manifests itself in the relationship between verligte rhetoric and the practice of ongoing injustice.

While the verligtes talk of democratisation the following injustices prevail:

- Innumerable unjust laws based on racial discrimination, safely protected by NP rule.
- The denial of South African citizenship to blacks.

— The introduction of a new constitution, co-opting so-called coloureds and Indians and excluding the blacks.

— The forced removals of hundreds of thousands of blacks with hundreds of thousands still to be removed.

— A migrant labour system with all its accompanying evils.

— Detention without trial.

These are only a few examples of social injustices directly linked to NP policy. The eyes remain on the verligtes to help eradicate these injustices.

They could have withdrawn from the NP with its unjust policies or at least have threatened to withdraw especially after the introduction of an unjust constitution.

Unfortunately, they did not do this, perhaps because their highest principle was to uphold Afrikaner power.

One of the difficulties with verligtes is that they lack a convincing political theory.

They had the opportunity to apply the theory of consociational democracy and voluntary association in drawing up the new constitution.

They fiddled with the idea of consociational democracy but, when the NP rejected it, they still applauded the new constitution.

One must admit that verligtheid was important at a certain stage of the Afrikaner's development.

It helped to conscientise the Afrikaner by making him aware of the evils of racism and apartheid.

However, the new challenge for the Afrikaner intellectual is to move beyond verligtheid and not waste time trying to reconcile the irreconcilable.

He should rather join forces with those reform-minded people who are willing to transcend racial and party differences in working towards a democratic society based on genuine power sharing and freedom of association.

In order to achieve this, all of us — also the verligte — should genuinely overcome racism and clearly illustrate this liberation from racism by jointly deciding about the future.

The proof that one has overcome racism is not merely by stating it, but precisely by joining forces now with reform-minded people of all colours in the creation of a just dispensation.

In conclusion, that which makes verligtheid so attractive, its imaginative projections, is at the same time its undoing because of the discrepancy between fantasy and reality.

But it is also dangerous, both for the verligte individually and for society as a whole.

It is dangerous to project an imaginary political world of imaginary political world of reform while the instrument of reform has honestly formulated its limited intentions.

It is also dangerous in the sense that the verligte has to live both in the real world of injustice and in the make-believe world of good intentions.

A choice has to be made. For my part, the heart is where the hurt is.

Editorial Calls For Talks

MB150904 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL
in English 15 Dec 84 p 7

[Editorial: "Talk Begins at Home too"]

[Text] The growing realisation in some Nationalist circles that South Africa's problems can only be solved jointly by representatives of all the country's citizens was well illustrated this week. *BEELD*, a Nationalist newspaper, called for talks between the Government and extra-parliamentary opposition groups — including the African National Congress.

The call must be welcome as a refreshing change. Refreshing too was the same newspaper's cool assessment of where the ANC stood on key issues after a five-hour interview.

Against the background of these developments, we find it strange that in the same Nationalist circles a campaign is continuing against internal black opposition leaders, particularly Bishop Desmond Tutu.

Here is a prominent, internationally acclaimed extra-parliamentary leader. Like it or not, he speaks for many. He is opposed to violence and actively seeks peaceful change in South Africa. He has repeatedly indicated a willingness to discuss political reform with the Government.

Yet there have been no significant Nationalist calls for talks between the Government and Bishop Tutu. On the contrary, a campaign that can only generate heat and lead to further polarisation has continued against the Bishop — and in fact intensified since he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Why?

Surely not because of hostility to his views on disinvestment? There is no point in negotiating only with think-alikes. Is it schizophrenia? A willingness — almost an eagerness — to talk to the ANC in the knowledge that such talks are highly unlikely in the foreseeable future; but a rejection of the very real prospect of dialogue with Bishop Tutu and the like.

Surely no one believes that the ANC would be more reasonable or accommodating of white fears than the Bishop.

We too believe that talks between the Government and extra-parliamentary black leaders aimed at mapping the country's future are long overdue. Furthermore, we believe such talks are inevitable so the sooner they take place the better. But, as far as we know, not even the basic groundwork has begun at an official

level, groundwork which will be essential to dispel suspicion on both sides.

We suggest that the time has come for Nationalist leaders and opinion-formers to embark on a vigorous campaign to undo the damage done over the years. They must actively promote a change in the widely-held attitudes among whites that extra-parliamentary black leaders are enemies of the State.

Unless this change of attitude can be achieved they may find that when the inevitable happens and the Government sits down to talk to black leaders, the reconciliation they are seeking with the majority of South Africans has turned to confrontation — with their own supporters.

Police Defuse Limpet Bomb in Durban Township

*MB171002 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0957 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] Pretoria, Dec 17, SAPA — A limpet mine and demolition charges discovered by a retired policeman in Kwamashu, near Durban, were defused by bomb disposal experts yesterday morning after a shooting incident nearby in the township, police said in Pretoria today.

Giving brief details in an initial statement, the South African police said through its public relations division in Pretoria that a "number of shots were fired at the home of Mr Ephraim Mbon-gwa, of Mkonde Street, Kwamashu" yesterday, but that nobody was killed or injured.

In what was later confirmed by police to be a sequel to the shooting, "a retired warrant officer, Mr V.P. Zuma, discovered a limpet mine and demolition charges next to his home in Kwamashu, at 7 am yesterday." "The explosives were defused by SA police bomb disposal experts."

Approached for clarification and further details, a police spokesman said the two incidents were linked, and that the explosives had been discovered "very near" Mr Mbon-gwa's home. No further details were being released at this stage but could be expected later.

Details of Banning Order Withdrawal Reported

*MB170659 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0529 GMT 17 Dec 84*

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 17, SAPA — The United Democratic Front launched a successful bid to overturn the ban placed on its first black Christmas meeting yesterday, when a Rand supreme court judge ruled that there was no "reasonable foundation" for the belief that the meeting would lead to violence or disruption of peace.

The UDF was represented in the urgent application before Mr Justice G. Leveson by three leading members of Lawyers for Human Rights — its national chairman, Mr Jules Browde, SC, assisted by Mr Gilbert Marcus, and briefed by Mr Norman

Manoim, both members of the Witwatersrand committee of the lawyers group.

It is believed to be the first successful action of its kind in the Transvaal — preceded only by another application brought by the UDF in the Cape some months ago.

The applicant argued that:

1. The ban, imposed because Johannesburg's acting chief magistrate, Mr G.J. Schoeman, "had reason to apprehend the public peace will be seriously endangered" by the meeting, had been made in ignorance of the UDF's arrangements to ensure good order.

In papers before the court, Mr Popo Molefe, the UDF general secretary, said the organization had anticipated the ban because of similar action taken earlier last week against the Transvaal Indian Congress. The UDF had therefore written to the magistrate outlining the measures to be taken to ensure an orderly meeting.

Mr Schoeman's order, however, predated the receipt of the letter by a day and therefore could not have taken account of the precautions, it was argued.

2. The wording of the ban was confusing and seemed so wide as to prohibit a simple discussion on rent increases between two neighbors or a committee meeting of Operation Hunger, it was contended.

The banning notice applied to the December 16 meeting of the UDF at Regina Mundi Church in Soweto "or any other gathering to commemorate or discuss the detention of persons related to the UDF and other matters set out in the attached pamphlet (advertising the black Christmas meeting)."

The pamphlet, noted Mr Molefe, mentioned "such diverse matters as increases in rents, bus fares, and electricity, as well as calling for sobriety during the festive season."

He added: "I respectfully submit that the wording of the prohibition is not only grammatically confusing but also so vague as to be incomprehensible to reasonable people."

3. That the UDF had a demonstrable record of well-organized mass meetings that had been attended by thousands and which had concluded without public disturbance. Meetings of 12,000 to 15,000 in Cape Town, 3000 in Lenasia, 1000 in Soweto, and 5000 in central Johannesburg were cited as examples.

In response, Mr Schoeman, represented by Mr R. Kruger, SC, and Mr J. Coetzee, instructed by the state attorney, placed an affidavit before the court. The affidavit stated that Mr Schoeman's decision to ban the meeting had been based on security police information that other meetings at Regina Mundi had culminated in violence and that the UDF and several of its affiliates were "props" for the African National Congress, which celebrated December 16 as Heroes Day.

Mr Justice Levenson ruled that there was nothing to show support for the ANC. He said a ban on meetings in terms of the Internal Security Act was not a matter of discretion but should be founded on factors that could be reasonably and objectively determined.

To infer from the evidence placed before Mr Schoeman by the police that the black Christmas meeting was likely to lead to violence was to make a "too tenuous" link, the judge ruled. He added that he was "troubled" by the wording of the banning notice, and found it a "frightening thought" that any two people discussing a matter mentioned in the notice might find themselves in breach of the prohibition.

Mr Justice Leveson ruled that the ban on the meeting was invalid, that the organizers could proceed with the gathering and that the respondent pay the costs of the action.

SWAZILAND

Finance Minister Departs for PTA Meeting

MB171052 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND
in English 17 Dec 84 p 8

[Text] The minister for Finance, Mr Sibusiso Dlamini, left for Bujumbura, Burundi to attend a council of ministers of the PTA. A press release from the Ministry of Finance says that under discussion at the meeting will be the location of the headquarters of the PTA Development and Trading Bank which, the press release says, Swaziland is keen to host.

Also under discussion will be the details of trade promotion operations of the clearing house in Harare, transport and communications, cooperation in industry and in agriculture and administration and budgetary matters.

The minister heading the delegation will be accompanied by the principal secretary of the Department of Economic Planning and Statistics, Mr Ed Sikhondze, the undersecretary, Ministry of Works, Mr Kenneth Khumalo and Mr Wolde-Semait of the Central Bank. The delegation is expected back home in Swaziland on December 24, 1984.

Police Kill ANC 'Hit Man' Suspected in Shiba Murder

MB180707 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND
in English 18 Dec 84 p 1, 16

[Text] Police have identified the ANC hit-man who murdered the deputy chief of the special branch, Superintendent Petros Shiba. They say he was a highly trained ANC agent who was once based in Maputo before the Nkomati Accord was signed. Special agent Andreas Sono Ngcobo, alias Solly, was shot dead by police in a spectacular operation at Esicelwini in Manzini at the weekend.

"We have now fully established that he is the man who killed Shiba with the same AK-47 rifle he was carrying on Sunday," the commissioner of police, Mr Majaji Simelane said yesterday. Mr Simelane said the police believe that Ngcobo is also linked to the killing of Inspector Jabulane Dlamini, who was killed during

a shoot-out between the police and ANC members in April. Other policemen were injured.

According to his curriculum vitae, compiled by the police, Ngcobo was a member of an elite special operations squad of the ANC under the legendary strategist, Joe Slovo, who is also a leader of the South African Communist Party. Ngcobo was a Zulu who was born in Meadowlands on February 2, 1958. During the Soweto disturbances in 1976 he was sacked from his job by a company known as Dester Engineering. In 1977 he joined the scores of students who fled South Africa and came to Swaziland. He was granted temporary political asylum in this country.

He was airlifted to Tanzania together with others on May 10, 1978. He received military training in Angola. In 1981 he received more advanced training in the same country, and in 1982 he did specialised training in heavy armaments. And in March this year he was sent to Maputo to join a task force responsible for special operations under Slovo. He fled to Swaziland after the Nkomati Accord.

He and two others escaped a police net in April this year. He was among nine ANC members who opened fire at the police, killing Inspector Dlamini and injuring others. He was with his lover when police raided the house at Esicelwini in Manzini on Sunday. Ngcobo was shot while hiding in a river, with his head partly sticking out. Another man was caught in cross-fire as he passed the house in which the wanted man was in. A child who was also caught in cross-fire was still in a serious condition in hospital yesterday.

It has also been established that Ngcobo was a wounded man all along. Apparently, after he was killed, police discovered that Shiba had fired back at the killer in the dark and wounded his left hand. "The wound was quite bad," an officer said. "We had suspected all along that the killer might have been wounded because we saw traces of blood at the spot where we thought he must have been," he said. However, Mr Simelane said investigations are continuing in connection with the Shiba killing because he could have been with someone else.

Former Minister Questions Reason for Detention

MB161017 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1000 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] Swaziland's former finance minister says he has been given no reasons for being in detention, and Sishayi Nxumalo, who was picked up nearly 4 months ago, claims he is being very badly treated. He says he became ill when rain poured through the bars of his cell, and he is presently in hospital on a drip.

Speaking to a journalist from his sick bed, Nxumalo accused Supreme Council Member George Msibi of lying to media about him. He says when he tried to bring a defamation order against Msibi, the law was changed to prevent any action being taken against a member of the council.

Nxumalo says he doesn't know why he's in detention but says there is no point in appealing to the supreme court because he believes the authorities will simply change the laws to keep him

in prison. He says his attorney has already withdrawn from his case because of intimidation.

Police Commissioner Majaji Simelane has refused to say why the former minister is being held or under what law.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Predicts 'Explosion' in RSA if No Change

MB171920 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, has predicted a massive explosion in South Africa within the next 4 years if there is no change in Pretoria's policy of apartheid. According to a REUTER report from Lagos, Nigeria, Dr Kaunda has been quoted as saying the explosion will make the French Revolution look like a Sunday morning children's picnic. The president said the explosion will engulf all states in the region, and can only be averted by the West, led by the United States.

Editorial Hails U.S. Protests

MB141914 Lusaka SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA
in English 2 Dec 84 p 1

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The civilised world should be encouraged to note the positive shift by American workers towards the down-trodden non-white workers in racist South Africa — a situation brought about by that country's repugnant system of apartheid. The protests, organized by 31 American trade unions are particularly significant in view of the Reagan government's policy — the so-called "constructive engagement with South Africa".

This policy is nothing more than a perpetuation of the subjugation of the blacks by the Botha regime, using American and the whole Western world's investments in South Africa. We note with interest that for the first time the American worker is becoming practically sensitive to the sufferings of his fellow workers in South Africa, purely on the basis of color. We would like to draw the attention of the world to recent warnings on the situation in South Africa, by President Kaunda and other leaders of foresight.

On November 6, Dr Kaunda cautioned that the blowing up of the heavily guarded Sasol fuel refinery a few years ago and the recent deployment of a massive network of combat troops to quell disturbances in black townships in South Africa were "a sign of things to come". As the unrest in South Africa spread, claiming more than 165 lives by November 17, that country's leading opposition politician Helen Suzman called for an immediate conference between the government, trade union leaders and other black leaders. This was the only way to diffuse the unrest, she said.

The same day of November 17, recorded Tanzanian Prime Minister Salim Ahmed Salim condemning South Africa for its

brutal enforcement of the apartheid which has held up the entire African population prisoners of conscience and political prisoners in their own homes, villages and towns.

We salute our fellow workers in the United States and pray that the whole civilised world will join us in encouraging efforts which would bring pressure to bear on the Reagan administration and the Western world to force the disintegration of the apartheid system in South Africa.

Party Council Rejects RSA Reforms, Linkage Issue

MB171916 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The just-ended United National Independence Party's 19th national council has condemned the South African regime for using the Army to invade African townships to suppress civilian resistance against apartheid. According to resolutions of the council released by the Central Committee member Fines Bulawayo, the council has also rejected Pretoria's so-called new constitutional changes in that country.

Mr Bulawayo also said the council has reaffirmed Zambia's rejection of the linkage of the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola with the independence of Namibia. The council has also appealed to the apartheid regime to release Nelson Mandela and his compatriots, and open a positive dialogue between the white South African Government and the ANC about the future of South Africa.

The supreme policy-making body has, in a different development, called upon the superpowers to immediately engage in meaningful dialogue and to end the arms race and create conditions for world peace and security. It also called on the OAU to fulfil its obligations to the liberation struggle in southern Africa by paying its financial contributions.

'Excellent Bilateral Ties' With PRC Hailed

MB171950 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Southern Province member of the Central Committee Mungoni Liso has hailed the warm relations between Zambia and China. Speaking at a reception at Intercontinental Mosi-Oa-Tunya Hotel, hosted in honor of the visiting Chinese delegation, Mr Liso said the existing relations between the two countries are manifested in their convergence of views both in international fora and excellent bilateral ties Zambia and China enjoy.

Mr Liso said the party, people, and Government of China have been long-standing and trusted friends of Zambia in all areas of human endeavor.

In reply, Vice Chairman of the Chinese National People's Congress delegation Huang Mua, said the good relations between Zambia and China make it possible for the two countries to exchange delegations to discuss bilateral matters. He said it is not true that China played a big role in uplifting the spirits of the

oppressed, as Zambia shouldered heavier responsibilities to liberate Zimbabwe, Angola, and Mozambique.

PRC Delegation Arrives

MB161207 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] A 12-man delegation from China has arrived in Lusaka on a 5-day visit to Zambia. The National People's Congress delegation was met at the Lusaka international airport by Speaker Robinson Nabulyato and his deputy Leonard Kombe. The delegation is scheduled to hold talks with President Kaunda, Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia, and Dr Nabulyato and expected to visit Livingstone and the copperbelt.

ZIMBABWE

ZANU-PF Official Criticizes Party Mobilization

MB170713 Harare Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] A ZANU-PF Central Committee member, Comrade Robert Marere, has called on party members to revamp the party's organizational machinery. Speaking at a ZANU-PF meeting at the (Sofat) Hall, Mbare, yesterday, Comrade Marere, who is also the deputy minister of national housing and construction, said he is not happy with the way the Harare Province has been mobilizing people. He called on the Harare Province to hold meetings aimed at educating people on the importance of registering as voters.

The importance of registering as voters was also stressed by the governor for Mashonaland West, Comrade Mudomeni Chivendi. He told a rally at (Chabakanyama) business center in Urungwe that those who have not yet registered as voters should do so in preparation for next year's general election.

ZAPU Member Edward Moyo Joins ZANU-PF

MB171333 Harare Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] A veteran Nationalist and managing director of the Central Film Laboratories in Harare, Comrade Edward Moyo, has resigned from ZAPU to join ZANU-PF. Announcing his resignation at a news conference in Bulawayo today, Comrade

Moyo said his decision has been prompted by a resolution of the ZAPU Central Committee to join hands with the United African National Congress and the Conservative Alliance of Zimbabwe.

He charged that ZAPU has refused to accept the policy of reconciliation and has further refused to appreciate government's achievements in various programs since independence. Comrade Moyo has been a member of ZAPU since its inception in the early 1960's and was the treasurer of that party's student branch in Canada and the United States of America during the liberation struggle.

New Libyan Ambassador Presents Credentials

MB180611 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Libya's new ambassador to Zimbabwe, Comrade ('Ammar MuhammadTurga) yesterday presented his credentials to the acting minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Simbarashe Mumbengegwe, who is also the minister of construction and national housing. Comrade (Turga) told the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation [ZBC] that relations between Zimbabwe and Libya are extremely good, adding that one of his tasks would be to enhance economic cooperation through trade in manufactured goods as well as scholarships. He said the [word indistinct] of cultural relations will include agreements between the Libyan News Agency and ZIANA, as well as between ZBC and the Libyan Broadcasting Service.

Tunisian Deputy Minister Meets With Mugabe

MB180642 Harare Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] After holding talks at the end of his official visit to Zimbabwe yesterday, the Tunisian deputy foreign minister, Comrade Mohamed (Mecidi), described the talks as successful. The talks covered a wide range of issues. Comrade (Mecidi) said he had discussed with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, efforts the two countries should make to persuade Morocco to join the OAU.

The Tunisian deputy foreign minister expressed his country's determination to continue supporting liberation movements in Southern Africa. Comrade Mugabe briefed Comrade (Mecidi) on the latest developments in southern Africa, particularly the Namibian independence question.